

JPRS 85011

23 December 1983

Near East/South Asia Report

No. 2871

FBIS

FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

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23 December 1983

NEAR EAST/SOUTH ASIA REPORT

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CONTENTS

REGIONAL AFFAIRS

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Briefs

Jordanian-IDB Agreement	1
Gazan Students in Egypt	1

ARAB AFRICA

ALGERIA

Council of Ministers Discusses Joint Companies, New Towns (APS, 28 Nov 83)	2
---	---

EGYPT

Electricity Minister Discusses Atomic Power, Proliferation Issues (Mahir Abazah Interview; AL-AHRAM AL-IQTISADI, No 775, 21 Nov 83)	4
Consequences of Nation's Election to Security Council Reviewed (AL-MUSAWWAR, 11 Nov 83)	11
Various Achievements of Plan in First Year Reviewed, Questioned (Jalal Amin; AL-AHRAM AL-IQTISADI, No 775, 21 Nov 83) ...	22
Head of World Bank's Egypt Desk on Relationship With Economic Leaders (Alberto Favella Interview; AL-AHRAM AL-IQTISADI, No 775, 21 Nov 83)	27

LIBYA

Weekly Urges Bloody Revenge, Break With France (Editorial; AL-ZAHF AL-AKHDAR, 21 Nov 83)	32
---	----

MOROCCO

Briefs	
Population Statistics	33

SUDAN

Briefs	
Chevron Camp in South Robbed, One Dead	34

ARAB EAST/ISRAEL

JORDAN

Briefs	
Aviation Agreement With China	35

LEBANON

Possible Confrontation Between U.S., Syria in Lebanon (Nadim Nasir; AL-MAJALLAH, No 197, 19-25 Nov 83)	36
Commercial Authorities Request Redress in Balance of Trade With Egypt (Adnan al-Hajj; AL-SAFIR, 24 Oct 83)	41

OMAN

Technical Agreement Signed With Wales Institute (OMAN DAILY OBSERVER, 19 Nov 83)	47
Overview of Country's Armed Forces Presented (OMAN DAILY OBSERVER, 19 Nov 83)	48
Country's Social Welfare System Described (OMAN DAILY OBSERVER, 19 Nov 83)	52

PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

Soviets Upgrade Military Presence (AL-HAWADITH, No 1400, 2 Sep 83)	55
Shabwah Development Project Accomplishments Cited (Ali Ba-Bakri; 14 UKTUBAR, 22 Sep 83)	56
Anti-Illiteracy Campaign Planning in Progress (14 UKTUBAR, 20 Sep 83)	58
Hadramawt Literacy Data Reported (Aziz al-Ta'alibi; 14 UKTUBAR, 22 Sep 83)	60

Projects Seek To Improve Supply Situation (14 UKTUBAR, 21 Sep 83)	61
--	----

YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

Experts Meet on Water Use Issues (AL-THAWRAH, 12 Sep 83)	63
---	----

SOUTH ASIA

INDIA

Results of Defense Minister's UK Visit Reported (Various sources, various dates)	72
Cooperation in Research Equipment for Jaguars	
Four Issues To Dominate Parliament's Winter Session (THE STATESMAN, 10 Nov 83)	74
Congress-I Activists Foresee Midterm Elections (THE STATESMAN, 11 Nov 83)	75
G. K. Reddy Writes on Efforts for Tamil Settlement (THE HINDU, various dates)	77
Framework for Settlement Cautious Optimism on Talks	
Paper Reports Rajiv Speech, Press Conference in Srinagar (PATRIOT, various dates)	79
10 Nov Speech 11 Nov Press Conference National Conference Reaction	

IRAN

Resistance Leader Rajavi Condemns Regime, Describes Opposition Movement (Sharif al-Shubashi; AL-MUSAWWAR, 18 Nov 83)	82
Official Criticizes Reaction to Iraqi Chemical Weapons Use (Tehran Domestic Service, 19 Nov 83)	94
Iran Clandestine on Nazih's Visit to Turkey (Free Voice of Iran, 27 Nov 83)	96
Iran Clandestine Discusses Propaganda Efforts (Radio Iran, 7 Dec 83)	97

Iran Clandestine Reports Invasion Plans (Free Voice of Iran, 27 Nov 83)	98
Iran Clandestine on Hunt for Iranian Children (Radio Iran, 5 Dec 83)	99
PAKISTAN	
Pakistani President's Aims, Policy Viewed (BAKHTAR, 24 Nov 83)	100
Minister Claims Food Situation in Sind Satisfactory (DAWN, 21 Nov 83)	102
Pakistan, Somalia Sign Agreement on Exchange of Information (THE MUSLIM, 22 Nov 83)	103
Treaty Soon With Turkey on Double Taxation (DAWN, 21 Nov 83)	105
Leader Says Government 'Harping on Irrelevant Things' (THE MUSLIM, 23 Nov 83)	106
Issue of Non-Party Elections Discussed (Sultan Ahmed; THE MUSLIM, 23 Nov 83)	107
Muslim League Leader Confirms Rift With Party Chief (Murtaza Malik; THE MUSLIM, 22 Nov 83)	109
Nation's Battle To Formulate Constitution Analyzed (Mushtaq Ahmad; DAWN, 21 Nov 83)	111
Student Association Criticizes Government, Politicians, Landlords (THE MUSLIM, 22 Nov 83)	114
Policy Body on Consultancy Firms Set Up (THE MUSLIM, 22 Nov 83)	116
Committee To Propose Steps for Eradicating Beggary (THE MUSLIM, 23 Nov 83)	118
Pagara League Fails To Reach Decision on Non-Party Elections (Ashraf Hashmi; THE MUSLIM, 23 Nov 83)	120
Aid Consortium To Be Briefed on Pakistan's Needs (DAWN, 21 Nov 83)	121
Briefs Export of Cotton Banned	122

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

BRIEFS

JORDANIAN-IDB AGREEMENT--The Islamic Development Bank signed an agreement yesterday morning in Jiddah by which it agreed to finance the import of crude oil in the sum of \$20 million for the benefit of Jordan. Dr Ahmad 'Ali, president of the Islamic Bank, signed for the bank, and Bahjat Tabarah, Jordanian ambassador to Saudi Arabia, signed for Jordan. The signing of this agreement brings the bank's total aid to Jordan to \$70 million this year in the field of foreign trade. Text London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 12 Sep 83 p 5 7587

GAZAN STUDENTS IN EGYPT--The Education Directorate in Gaza announced that 200 male and female Gazan students from the arts and sciences departments have been accepted in Egyptian universities and institutes. It should be noted that Egyptian universities have refused to accept students from the Gaza Strip in applied colleges such as medicine and engineering. They are being accepted in the theoretical colleges in the universities in the administrative districts and Upper Egypt. Last year about 100 students were accepted by Egyptian universities, but only 6 students enrolled, since it turned out that the students who had been accepted by the universities had left the Gaza Strip to enroll in European and Arab universities, as they wished. The students are asking the responsible agencies to indicate those accepted by Egyptian universities and higher institutes by total number of students and not by name, so that a student who enrolls in a university abroad may be replaced by another student in the Egyptian universities. Registration will be open to students obtaining 160 points in the arts and 260 or more in the sciences. Registration will continue today and tomorrow as well as 21 September, which is the last day to register. Text Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 14 Sep 83 p 5 7587

CSO: 4404/57

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS DISCUSSES JOINT COMPANIES, NEW TOWNS

LD281457 Algiers APS in English 1150 GMT 28 Nov 83

[Text] Algiers, 28/11/83 (APS)--The Council of Ministers met yesterday under the presidency of President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the republic, FLN Party secretary general, adopted a project linked to the remuneration of the parties within the framework of companies of joint economy.

The essential contribution of this text elaborated in conformity with the Article 37 of the law Nr 82/13 of 28 August 1982, linked to the constitution and the functioning of the companies of joint economy is that they constitute a juridical framework which favours a real transfer of technology beneficial to the foreign partner."

This kind of reward of encouragement has the effect of interesting increasingly the foreign party to the functioning and to performances of the company of the joint economy and to encourage it so as to improve the technological mastership of the Algerian partner. The absence, up to now, of the juridical rules based on the quantifiable parameters forbidding any precise evaluation of the technological counterpart of the foreign technical assistance.

By the report of the minister of planning and parcelling of land [as received] the Council of Ministers adopted a programme of the carrying out of the project of new towns in the west and the east of the country.

This project is the new sighting mark of a series of new towns of average dimension to build in favourable zones to urbanization of agglomerations which all serve of attracting and anchoring lings [as received] for the populations and the socioeconomic activities and will constitute an important element of seeking for equilibrium in the socioeconomic development and occupation of the territory.

The programme of the carrying out of this important project put a particular accent on the actions of organisations and reinforcement of agricultural and pastoral activities of the region of implantation of the new towns so as to set up dynamic and harmonious relations between the new agglomeration and its development.

Intervening in the debate, the president of the republic put the stress on the necessity to subscribe the achievement of this new town within the wider framework of the policy of the land parcelling out. The head of state put the stress on the demand to provide for all the structures of accompanying [as received] able to guarantee all the necessary conditions to the quality of life and work, such as collective equipments to see to it so as to safeguard style of architecture by (?typically) national and the preservation of environment of all the polluating [as received] industrial activities.

CSO: 4500/22

ELECTRICITY MINISTER DISCUSSES ATOMIC POWER, PROLIFERATION ISSUES

Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-IQTISADI in Arabic No 775, 21 Nov 83 pp 14-17

[Interview with Electricity Minister Mahir Abazah by Mustafa Imam: "The Minister of Electricity Talks to AL-IQTISADI: The Truth about the American Position on the Al-Dab'ah Plant"]

[Text] This 26 November, bid envelopes will be opened for the first nuclear plant to be erected in Egypt, so that the Ministry of Electricity and Power may choose from among the bids from companies of three countries, France, West Germany and the United States of America.

With the ministry's choice of what in its view is the best of the bids presented, the execution of the construction of the two plants in the al-Dab'ah area will begin before the end of next year. These two plants will be the two forerunners of the ambitious Egyptian nuclear program which has the objective of constructing from six to eight nuclear electricity generating plants by 2000.

Up to the moment one of the international bids tendered is selected, Egypt will have exerted great effort to overcome the problems in the way of the construction. However, some issues that have not been understood remain, and these may have an effect on construction in the future, for instance, the truth of the American Import-Export Bank's refusal to participate in the financing of the Egyptian nuclear program, as well as the way in which Egypt will arrange financing for the construction of its plants. This is a critical question. Egypt is the biggest country in the Middle East region, which is full of conflicts, [to have signed] the agreement to prohibit the spread of nuclear weapons so that it can be permitted to use nuclear power for peaceful purposes. Therefore Egypt cannot use this power to manufacture nuclear weapons whereas Israel, which is the other major party to the conflict, refuses to sign this agreement, and refuses to let the International Energy Agency inspect its tests. Although there are conflicting statements on Israel's possession of an atomic bomb, there is agreement that it possesses the resources for manufacturing such a bomb.

The pessimistic assumption is if Israel threatens to use the atomic bomb some day, what will the Egyptian response to this threat be? Will it be too

late, and will Egypt have paid an exorbitant price for the sake of a development threatened by Israeli nuclear weapons?

That is a question which raises a hundred questions. However, we are presenting all these questions to the man who is in charge of the planning and execution of the Egyptian peacetime nuclear program, Eng Mahir Abazah, the minister of electricity and power, so that he might state his opinion, as Egypt enters the first stage of construction of its program, after 26 November.

Three Countries in the Bidding

[AL-AHRAM] AL-IQTISADI: On 26 November, the envelopes will be opened on the first two atomic plants in Egypt. What is the capacity of these two plants, and what are the countries which will present bids?

The minister: The bidding for which the envelopes will be opened concerns two reactors, with a capacity of 1,000 megawatts each. These will be erected in the al-Dab'ah area. The bids to be submitted will include the provision of an entire plant, on a "turnkey" basis, with a detailed review of the equipment, machinery and loans or various facilities the government will present. Three countries will participate, France, West Germany and the United States of America. From each country, one or two bids will be submitted in accordance with the composition of the bids, which will be submitted by companies separately or jointly. These bids will be analyzed and evaluated with the aid of a Swiss consulting firm with which agreement has been reached to choose the best bid from all standpoints, technical, financial, and technological, since our expertise in this area is not great.

AL-IQTISADI: What is the truth regarding the statements that have been published concerning the American Export-Import Bank's refusal to take part in financing the construction of the first Egyptian nuclear plant?

The minister: My information consists of what was published in the American magazine BUSINESS WEEK, which stated that the bank refused the application of an American firm, one of three companies to present their bids in the bidding. The bank refused to participate in the financing arrangements the company was to present, and, after the voting, which ended up three votes against two, refused, basing its refusal on the point that the Egyptian economy is not strong, that is, not able to make payment. This is an unofficial statement, since we have received no official letters. In this sense, as is well known, the Export-Import Bank is one in which the American government takes part, but it is one of the hundreds of banks from which the three companies will try to receive financing offers in their bids at the bidding.

AL-IQTISADI: Why hasn't the ministry sent a letter to the bank asking for an explanation for this stand?

The minister: We do not ask about things that are published in the newspapers. This is a detail which concerns the companies that will submit their bids.

AL-IQTISADI: Do you believe that this stand on the part of the bank will have an effect on the bids of the American companies?

The minister: I do not believe that it will, because it is one of 100 banks whose participation the companies can request. Also, it concerns the one company out of the three that are to present bids that requested the participation of the Import Bank.

AL-IQTISADI: Has agreement been reached by Egypt and America to have the latter help Egypt finance its nuclear program?

[Answer] The companies that will enter the bidding are private ones and it is private banks that will take part in the financing. We are not dealing with the government of the United States here, because we deal with private companies. If they had been public companies, that would have been permissible. We signed a political agreement with the American government to allow the nuclear equipment to leave America.

AL-IQTISADI: Is it true that the American government requested an increase in electricity prices as a condition for participation in the financing?

The minister: No one made such a request of us officially. The agreement which was signed with America, in addition to three other countries, France, West Germany and Canada, stipulates that our use of nuclear power will be for peaceful purposes, on grounds that Egypt has signed the agreement on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. These major agreements do not cover the features of the financing, although there are other peripheral agreements which do deal with technical aspects which have been signed with Sweden, Belgium and Britain, and there is an agreement bearing on the acquisition of uranium which was initialed with Niger and Australia to obtain uranium, and we hope to sign these two agreements in final form soon. We have also informed the Swiss [sic] that they want to reach a political agreement with us in this area.

AL-IQTISADI: How will Egypt arrange the necessary financing for the nuclear plants?

The minister: So far, there are \$700 million in the Egyptian Central Bank which the government has deposited to help with the financing. The government is seeking to deposit about \$300 million a year from oil revenues. This year the government did not deposit anything, and we will use this sum to make an advance payment on the construction of the plants. After the first and second units are completed, we will think about ways of financing the third and fourth units. Foreign loans will contribute part of the financing. The type of these loans and the financial facilities to be offered in the 26 November bid will be determined.

AL-IQTISADI: Do you expect that the companies will form groups as far as winning the awards goes?

The minister: Certainly. However, it is not yet possible to determine the nature of the bids, until the envelopes are opened.

AL-IQTISADI: When will work on the construction of the nuclear plants begin and what is your construction program for the remaining plants?

The minister: Our estimate is that if the envelopes are opened on 26 November, God willing, the order will be given to the company to which the award is granted to start the construction at the site in the al-Dab'ah area next July, with the first plant to start operating in 1991 and the second in 1992. They will be linked to the main electricity grid. As regards the other plants, after 2 years, after our circumstances become clear, we will ask for bids for the construction of two other plants, and so on, every year, so that by 2000 we will have six to eight plants operating and connected to the unified grid.

AL-IQTISADI: Egypt, about three years ago, signed the international agreement prohibiting the spread of nuclear weapons. According to this agreement, and the other political agreements which Egypt has signed along with four countries so far, Egypt is supposed to use nuclear power for peaceful uses only. Do you consider that there are dangers for the country in the context of Israel's refusal to sign this agreement and in the light of Israel's possession of the resources for manufacturing an atomic bomb which might threaten this area?

The minister: In my estimation, as a technical engineer, Israel does not have an atomic bomb, because if there are nuclear weapons in a country, that becomes well known. The countries that have nuclear weapons in the world are the countries that belong to the atomic club. These include America, Russia, France, Britain and China. Although India has carried out an explosion, it is the abovementioned countries that have nuclear warheads.

AL-IQTISADI: In the estimation of the committee which the United Nations General Assembly formed on the nuclear situation in Israel, the report talked in detail about the presence of nuclear resources in Israel. What is your opinion?

The minister: The report talked about the resources Israel had. There are countries that have such resources, such as Pakistan, Brazil and Argentina. Resources are one thing, and the actual existence of nuclear weapons is something else.

AL-IQTISADI: However, the report, and other studies, have stated that Israel has resources for manufacturing nuclear weapons, such as a bomb, for example.

The minister: It might have such resources, in theory, but the manufacture of a nuclear bomb will take a long time and very exorbitant costs which would heavily burden the economy of any developing country.

AL-IQTISADI: Israel has plutonium and it has the Dimona experimental reactor, which are indications of resources for such manufacture!

The minister: The Dimona experimental reactor is internationally known, but for the situation to be transformed from plutonium to a nuclear explosion is

a very difficult matter which requires studies, research, costs and tests. Every test explosion would have to be known throughout the world, because when India conducted the explosion, the whole world knew about it.

AL-IQTISADI: Is your information to the effect that Israel does not have a nuclear weapon certain?

The minister: I have not heard [sic] confirmed, but Egypt is a member of the International Atomic Energy Authority, and this authority has not yet said that Israel has an atomic weapon, but rather that it could have the resources. The difference between the two is very great, because it is not in the power of every country that has plutonium to manufacture a nuclear weapon. It is correct that it thinks about this repeatedly, but that would take it a long time, and its economy might not bear the costs, which are exorbitant, since it is living on foreign aid.

AL-IQTISADI: During the Egyptian delegation's signing of the agreement to prohibit the spread of nuclear weapons, and during your signing of other political agreements, were Israel's nuclear resources in the Egyptian negotiators' minds?

The minister: What concerns us is our country. The generation of electricity is to Egypt's advantage, and we are a country that believes in peace and does not believe at all in nuclear weapons.

AL-IQTISADI: However, the possession of nuclear weapons by the [illegible] of one party to the struggle could decide the struggle. The issue here is the fate of a nation!

The minister: However, I can state that the other party does not have an atomic bomb. Therefore, we are proceeding along the peaceful road.

AL-IQTISADI: If a day comes, and we hope that it does not, that Israel threatens to use the nuclear weapon against Egypt, do you believe that Egypt will have a chance to make a free, dignified choice, or a response to this threat?

The minister: You should ask the deputy prime minister and the foreign minister about this matter. As for myself, I, as a technician, am concerned with the use of nuclear power for peaceful purposes.

AL-IQTISADI: I will not be pessimistic, but let me be wary. If Israel really does threaten to use the nuclear weapon, or uses it, if only in the context of the city of Cairo, will you ever regret having signed the agreements on the non-use of atomic power to make nuclear weapons?

The minister: I am not regretful over the peaceful nuclear program. Ask the minister of foreign affairs about this matter.

AL-IQTISADI: West Germany gave Egypt an experimental nuclear reactor. What is the nature of this reactor? Will this reactor give Egypt resources which are more advanced than those of the Inshas reactor?

The minister: This reactor has a capacity of 2 megawatts. It is an experimental reactor which is a gift from Germany to Egypt, and we are now negotiating to move it to an Egyptian university. Most probably it will be installed in Cairo University or in Alexandria University, according to the circumstances, and this reactor will be used to train scientific staffs and to create new nuclear research personnel, as a new reactor which has many benefits. We will receive it in the middle of next year. The Inshas reactor is now an old one. We thank the Soviets for offering it to us; it has taught a large group of our young people.

AL-IQTISADI: Mr Minister, you, as a technician -- do you consider that Egypt does not have resources to manufacture a nuclear weapon?

The minister: I have no connection, no connection, with the military aspects. I am certain that Egypt's orientation is a peaceful one. We are working on behalf of the use of nuclear power for peaceful purposes.

The Story of the Surplus of Electricity

The Media Method of Guidance, Not the Use of Binding Policies

One of the minister of electricity's press statements that is being published in the newspapers and has drawn attention is his statement about the existence of a surplus of electricity in Egypt. What is the story on this surplus, and how can there be one, when not all the villages in Egypt have yet been supplied with electricity?

The minister of electricity said, "That is true, I did declare that there was a relative surplus of electricity this year. We added 1,000 megawatts in 1983, an increase which can continue as a reserve if consumption does not swallow it up, since the average rate of [growth of] consumption is now 15 percent [a year], which is a large figure compared with the rates in developing countries, which come to 4 percent in India, 5 percent in China, and, in the developing countries, 1 or 0.5 percent, or sometimes zero. You ask how this surplus was realized. It was realized by adding new plants, since we added two units in Abu Qir with a capacity of 300 megawatts, two in Abu Sultan, for 300 megawatts, 200 megawatts in al-Mahmudiyah, 100 megawatts in al-Suyuf, and 100 megawatts from al-Shabab. We will have these 1,000 megawatts at the end of December, God willing, and this will add a 20 percent increase in electricity production. However, this increase could disappear if the current rate of consumption continues and reaches 15 percent in 1985; we hope that it will drop to 10 percent, at least."

I said, "The ordinary man on the street in the village asks, how can you talk about a surplus in electricity output when there still are villages in Egypt where electricity has not been brought in!"

He said, "I am not supposed to give every village in Egypt electricity! That would mean an increase in consumption. In India they have half a million villages of which not one has been supplied with electricity. In China one or two lights are provided for homes and the remaining electricity goes for production. If the government wants to produce, it is necessary that elec-

tricity not go for refrigerators, washing machines and videos. This is wrong! In Egypt 40 percent of the electricity is for consumption, 6 percent for production and 10 percent for consumption [sic]. In Europe 85 percent is for production."

I said, "In a statement, you declared that the electrification of the Egyptian countryside would be done at the end of next December. Are you holding to your promise?"

He said, "I mean the main villages, which are 5,350 in number. All of these villages will be provided with electricity by the end of December. However, there are hamlets and estates, and the provision of electricity for these will be delayed a little, according to the circumstances of the budget and the country's resources."

I said, "In the guidance program, will you rely on the method of media suggestion or do you consider it appropriate to adopt binding policies?" He said, "We are a free, democratic country. The citizen has the right to buy the electrical appliances he wants, as long as he pays the stipulated customs duties. I consider that it is not proper that the system of binding policies be used. It is better to use the media system, and I have reached agreement with the television to make guidance films."

I asked, "Do you consider that increasing the prices of electricity is better for guidance?"

He stated, "The government does not consider that electricity prices should be increased. It prefers the method of guidance. Perhaps, instead of buying videos, people should buy tractors or agricultural machinery, or should invest their savings in productive projects rather than buying electric consumer goods which devour the country's electricity."

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CSO: 4504/76

CONSEQUENCES OF NATION'S ELECTION TO SECURITY COUNCIL REVIEWED

Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 11 Nov 83 pp 28-30

[Article: "AL-MUSAWWAR in a Conversation with Egypt's Representative at the Security Council: How Did Egypt Win Membership in the Council? What will be the Dimensions of Its Role in the Next 2 Years?]

[Text] AL-MUSAWWAR: At the outset we would like to congratulate Ambassador Ahmad Tawfiq Khalil on Egypt's election to membership in the Security Council.

Mr Ambassador, what is the significance of Egypt's selection to membership?

Answer: Before anything else, I would like to stress that this victory was in reality the fruit of a common effort. In this regard one must refer to the broad coordination process that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Cairo undertook in participation with all the Egyptian embassies abroad.

This effort and organization, in actuality, took a number of months.

As to the significance of the victory, I consider that that is in effect an acknowledgment of Egypt's international status and weight and support for its actual role. It is also in effect a resumption of Egypt's exercise of its role on the international stage in the United Nations, specifically in the Security Council, which in the first place is the agency that has jurisdiction over the preservation and maintenance of international peace and security.

I believe that the result of the voting in the General Assembly is also in effect an acknowledgment that the time has come for Egypt to return to the international stage as one of the main channels supporting its role in numerous areas in international efforts and bilateral relations. In reality, the victory has been part of Egypt's substantial diplomatic activity, which has not let up during this period, although this time it was through an event within another agency which is of importance and has an impact and voice in the preservation of international peace.

AL-MUSAWWAR: Egypt, during Cuba's chairmanship of the nonaligned movement, in particular, remained in a defensive position in the face of attempts to impose isolation on it. This situation, I believe, was reflected on the power of Egyptian diplomatic influence in the United Nations itself.

What political or even tactical factors prevented these attempts from succeeding at that time? How would you explain the change which moved Egyptian diplomacy from a defensive position to exercise of the influential role represented in membership in the Security Council?

Answer: In reality, this question, first of all, in my estimation, should be asked of the nonaligned movement itself. In the second or third place it could be directed to countries like Egypt, India and Yugoslavia. The issue is therefore not restricted to Egypt or to what was called at that time, erroneously I believe, the isolation of Egypt.

The fact is that Egypt was not isolated within the nonaligned movement or outside it, or even in the Middle East area. This is not my personal opinion, but rather the view of many others besides me as well.

What happened, rather, was that during the period of Cuba's chairmanship, as is well known, Cuba brought the world a point of view which held that there was a natural alliance between the nonaligned movement and the Soviet Union.

However, Egypt stood in total opposition to this point of view. It was not alone in this position; all the other countries with great weight inside the movement shared it, in particular the founding nations, as well as a large number of others, and the group of countries in opposition made up the silent majority, as it was called.

AL-MUSAWWAR: Was this position then founded on a contrary conception of the notion of nonalignment?

Answer: The idea of nonalignment is nonalignment with the right or the left, or, in other words, nonalignment with either of the two blocs, the Eastern or the Western. I believe that nonalignment is not the midpoint between the far right and the far left, or even between the countries of the former block or the latter one.

Consequently, each case should be examined by itself, in accordance with its own conditions and the historical circumstances in whose context it grew or arose, proceeding from clear, specific principles, which are that the non-aligned movement does not incline toward one side or another.

As for the idea of the center, if we try to adopt that as a definition or proof of the principle of the notion of nonalignment, I do not believe that that will represent the actual case. The more extremism there is on the right or the left, the more it will try to attract the point at the center toward itself, whether that is toward the right or the left.

In actuality one must point out that my use of the expressions "the left" and "the right" is figurative; by it I mean "the East" and "the West," to simplify matters.

These positions we are speaking about might nonetheless on occasion conform to an Eastern or Western position, and there is absolutely no reason why they shouldn't, as long as the one or the other proceeds from the nonaligned countries' evaluation

and view of their interests and the interests of international peace and security, the avoidance of international tension, and so forth.

In this context, I can recall that Egypt, at one stage, was accused (and we unfortunately, are always prone to accusations) of being friends with the Soviet Union. When the Soviet Union broke the agreement to suspend underground nuclear testing, in the sixties, Egypt condemned this measure at that time. However, that did not mean that Egypt took a position of deference to America. Not at all. Rather, it was a position which was totally compatible with Egypt's positions from this perspective.

Consequently, I can say that the nonaligned movement should not be rebuked at all for adopting a position which might be in keeping with the positions of one of the two blocs, but nonetheless will not be a middle of the road position.

Consequently, the issue, as you can see, is somewhat complicated.

It was my purpose, in this explanation, to get to the starting point of your question. In order for us to determine whether or not any change has occurred, there must be a standard for measuring what has actually happened.

AL-MUSAWWAR: How did the member countries accept this Cuban notion of nonalignment, then?

Answer: In actuality, Egypt opposed this notion from the time it was first presented, and we, with other countries beside us, declared that it was to be rejected in principle, because such an alliance, which was essentially contradictory to the spirit and essence of the notion of nonalignment, did not exist. However, if by chance an agreement in positions should occur, so be it. That could happen, in reality, if the Eastern or Western group takes the same position the nonaligned movement does, but not the other way around.

However, I must acknowledge that Cuba showed great ability to bring pressure and to act. It is a phenomenon, since leftists are generally more active, more articulate and more organized.

They resort to certain methods by which they control meetings. We might not all be happy with these methods. Among them, for instance, is the fabrication of noise and tumult, all of which they interpret as agreement to opinions in contradiction to the truth. This stage, alongside that, was distinguished by the presence of what has been known as the silent majority that believed in the principles of nonalignment in the manner I have attempted to explain, in a defensive situation. That was followed by a new stage in which these countries felt that this silence was not in their interests. Egypt played a large part in dislodging this silence and negativism to a large extent. We have gone beyond the fear of dangers of the occurrence of open confrontations that might affect the nature and course of the movement itself. We did not want a rift to occur within the movement. We preferred to get along during the period of Cuba's chairmanship until we got to the stage we are talking about now, which is in reality the resumption of the normal current and the prime sources of the notions of nonalignment.

During this period, the number of member countries increased. This in itself is a good sign of the quality and essence of the idea itself.

Above and beyond that, we must realize that a proliferation of members also means the presence of a proliferation of ideas. There can be no absolute conformity. To the contrary, the movement includes some countries which could be said to be right wing and others left wing at the present time. However, the important thing is that there is a common denominator among them.

Therefore, to come back to your question, I can say that I would not depict Egypt's situation in the movement, even during this period, as one of isolation and say that Egypt regained its position later. I do not agree with this view.

Egypt, in actuality, has suffered, as others in the nonaligned movement have suffered, from this narrow interpretation, which has alienated, or sought to alienate, the idea of nonalignment from its original meaning.

It is an ongoing process. Therefore, we must also continue to defend this notion of nonalignment, which we believe in.

AL-MUSAWWAR: There is no doubt that the number of votes Egypt got in the General Assembly in support of its nomination to the Security Council is proof of nearly absolute support from the Organization of African Unity. Did you expect this result? On what basis were your expectations founded?

Answer: I certainly share your opinion, which is that the number of votes, 145 out of the total of 155 countries that took part in the voting, exceeded what we had been hoping to achieve. In reality, one must be realistic as far as the estimating process itself goes. We are not living in the world of theories. Hopes are one thing and reality is another. We perhaps had been trying to realize what we wanted, and we had to try to do so.

Thanks to efforts, coordination, and the explanation of positions, as I pointed out earlier, we obtained this number of votes, which exceeded all expectations.

Egypt, by the nature of its geographical location, belongs to a number of civilizations and a number of various cultures and groups. It belongs to the Mediterranean basin, it is an African country, and before all else it is an Arab and Islamic country. All these elements interact and make Egypt's statements expressive of various notions and feelings.

In the United Nations, there are geographic groups. Egypt, in terms of purely geographic affiliation in the organization, belongs to the African group.

As you know, countries in the United Nations are broken down by geographical groups, such as the Asian and Latin American groups, and so on.

Nominations are accepted within each group, on the basis of the geographical groups.

This point might bring us back to the era of the sixties. By chance, I happened to be here in New York when the effort was made to expand the Security Council, so that its members would increase from 11 to 15.

At that time, a discussion took place on the possibility of setting aside an Arab seat. We as Arab countries, of course, asked for a seat for the Arabs. At that time we were told that there was what is called a "gentleman's agreement."

The discussion actually became ramified and went on, and things concluded with the situation that applies now, which is founded on geographical distribution, where the Arab seat will at one time be in the African group and another time in the Asian group.

When the African group's turn came, it nominated Egypt. Consequently, in response to your question, Egypt received total support from the African countries.

The issue of nominations, like other issues, is sometimes settled easily; at other times, it is fraught with difficulties. We met with I would not like to use the word competition but I can say attempts, from within the group, and even attempts from other groups, to influence the decision before it was resolved within the African group.

That was something that had been expected, and it was legitimate, going by the English saying which holds "all is fair in love and war."

However, all these attempts had been expected. I, for example, always tell colleagues, in an attempt to convey my experience to others, that we must not be surprised by things that ought not to surprise us. Something that is expected is not a surprise. We must always take precautions for the worst, and must not be surprised by a situation that we might have come to expect by exercising some thought. Consequently, this platform helped us reduce many obstacles, because we used our imagination to conceive of problems that might face us and investigated ways and means for dealing with them together. Thus no strange situations arose. Realistic conceptions lead us to various possibilities and expectations and leave no room for the appearance of any surprises. I say that because the process in the African group was not an easy one.

AL-MUSAWWAR: Does that mean that there were no possibilities that a surprise might emerge during the voting?

Answer: The possibility of a surprise in the sense that a situation might occur which had not been prepared for. Grace be to God, through the course of thought and the conduct we pursued, nothing of this sort took place.

However, nonetheless, I would not say that that was genius. Rather, in my view, it was a matter of the utmost simplicity and ease. By applying a simple scientific approach, one can raise the question: how many countries within a given group might object? If these countries object what can you do, and where will the issue be raised? This all means carrying out the process of evaluating ongoing situations.

The purpose of this detail is for me to show that our victory, as based on African support, was not in reality an easy matter. Indeed, to the contrary, we faced a situation of challenge. Perhaps the word "challenge" is not totally accurate, as far as what I want to portray goes. The process was a dynamic one and the circumstances changed from one moment to another. Every step on our part was met by reactions from another side.

Another point we agreed on from the beginning was that we should proceed with the process in extreme calm so that it would not appear that there was a struggle, although there actually was one. It was our objective thereby to avoid revealing anything, at a time when contacts were ongoing and were being made without any commotion at all. This concealment was also to avoid the occurrence of any reactions at a stage when awkward possibilities appeared. However, in the end we achieved this brilliant success within the African group.

One of the advantages of this group, specifically, is that though it might experience disputes and rifts, if it arrives at an agreement it adheres to it. This is a great advantage which other groups might lack.

AL-MUSAWWAR: Could the ambassador shed some light on some of these difficulties?

Answer: There were, for example, many attempts at procrastination, by delaying meetings, trying to cast doubts on the criteria that had been set forth for nomination, attempts to fabricate noise and quarrels, and even attempts to cast doubts on the soundness of the positions of some delegations, by launching rumors or other methods of obstruction which you know about through contact with work within the United Nations. However, we dealt with these attempts, with success from God, and obtained the support of the African group.

One can make a comparison with the Latin group. This group was not agreed to candidates to the Security Council or to the Economic and Social Council. Therefore, the matter has not been resolved yet. Meanwhile, the opposite was the case in the African group, since Egypt won with the candidates to the Economic and Social Council on the first ballot. A dispute occurred, conversely, as regards the Security Council seat allocated to the countries of Latin America, between Peru and Barbados.

To the African support, I might add the support of the Latin American countries, along with another important element, which is that the countries, if they support or differ with a given country, must take the political policy of that country into consideration. It is not just a matter of a voting process which ends at a specific moment. Rather, the number of votes in support of us is proof that Egyptian foreign policy enjoys support and understanding.

The support from Latin America, if it means anything, means that these countries realize the true weight of Egypt in the area and realize that when it obtains membership in the Security Council it will serve the causes of peace. They also realize that Egypt has a harmonious political policy which does not change or shift from right to left from day to day. They also know Egypt's history in fighting colonialism.

The same is the case with respect to the Asian countries. When they cast votes in support of Egypt, they do so because our bilateral relations with the countries of this group are good ones, and this applies to the European countries and others.

Therefore I can say that Egypt's acquisition of this number of votes in reality reflects the world's appreciation of Egypt's gravity and weight.

AL-MUSAWWAR: Iran's permanent representative declared at a press conference that the Security Council has been possessed by the spirit of satan, and he accused the council of partiality and of submission to the will of the big countries. In reality, there almost is near unanimity among the countries of the third world that the Soviet Union and the United States, specifically, are responsible for paralyzing the council's effectiveness.

If this diagnosis is valid, do you believe that this situation can continue indefinitely? What are the consequences of its continuation?

In another area, how do you suppose the council can get out of this predicament and be enabled to exercise its powers as the charter stipulates them?

Answer: As regards the first part, on the comparison between satan and the Security Council, I do not believe that that requires comment. I would like to say that the press conference Iran's representative held was basically to comment on the resolution the council had adopted regarding the issue of the Iraqi-Iranian war, or the situation between the two countries. He said that this resolution made common cause with the Iraqi point of view. To that he added that the Iranian point of view, which was presented in the form of recommendations in the course of the consultation process, was not taken into account, and his comment, which you referred to in this context, was made for this reason.

However, if he wanted to put the situation in the context of satan or something else, that is another issue. However, as regards the existence of unanimity or near unanimity that the council is not performing its function, and so forth, this subject in reality raises the following question: what is the Security Council supposed to do, in order that we can understand what is required of the council, what shortcomings are there in the performance of its work, and what does the charter stipulates as far as all this is concerned?

The right of the veto, or the right to object, is something which enters into the heart of the charter. In my estimation, that is not the reason why the work of the council is paralyzed. That situation reflects the big countries' right to the veto, which reflects the facts which exist in the world.

AL-MUSAWWAR: With the ambassador's permission, the issue being raised here is the use or abuse of the veto.

There are people who make that claim, and there are people who say that the remedy is to eliminate the right to the veto. However, I state, and others besides me also state, that the starting point is that the United Nations reflects the world in which we live. It is the group of member countries. There is no abstract object by name of the United Nations. Therefore, you cannot make what is called the United Nations bear the responsibility for the

failure of the United Nations. Whatever it bring about, or does not succeed in bringing about, starts and ends with the member countries, including the small ones. Therefore, I can state that the small countries, of which we are one, bear part of the burden of the responsibility if the United Nations has not been carrying out its job as we wish. Consequently, you must not lay the responsibility on the charter. Nothing is putting the charter at fault. The charter guarantees the right to object.

I do not deny that there has been abuse in the exercise of this right. That is quite clear. However, unfortunately that represents the condition of international relations. If there is tension, that tension is reflected in the situation, and one of the big countries will use the right to veto.

Nonetheless, this right has been used in cases which we were in no way happy about. We said that for instance during the discussions bearing on the situation with the occupied Arab territories, when the United States used the right to object to a draft resolution stating that the construction of the settlements was illegal. It is not reasonable that they should use this right. When you object to the statement that the settlements are illegal, you give the impression that in reality you claim that they are legal. The Americans deny that they meant to give this interpretation, but in any event that is not the issue now.

In his report presented at the past session, the secretary general of the United Nations addressed himself to ways of enhancing the effectiveness of the main agencies in the organization, specifically the Security Council. Even the resolutions which have been issued by the council, including for example Resolution 242 bearing on the settlement in the Middle East and Resolution 435 bearing on the problem of Namibia, were issued almost unanimously; however, they have not yet been carried out. This is one of the problems that face us.

However, the failure in execution cannot in reality be attributed to the right to the veto. Rather, it may be attributed to other considerations. Therefore, one must not make the United Nations bear the responsibility for the failure to carry these resolutions out.

AL-MUSAWWAR: Does general execution require, for example, the creation of a mechanism for carrying out the United Nations resolutions? In other words, on what basis does the execution of these resolutions take place?

Answer: That question brings us into the problem of international regulation, the extent to which international law applies, and whether it is a law with a binding character. This also leads us to a discussion of the facts about the world we are living in.

This world, unfortunately, does not respect law as we would like it to. However, that does not mean that we should stop calling for the reform of this world. This appeal is founded on the need to apply the United Nations charter, which is what we are actually doing.

When a violation of the charter occurs, we draw attention to this violation and to the fact that the resumed use of violence in international relations by

countries is a phenomenon which provokes the fears of small countries which do not have the necessary strength to defend themselves.

There is no doubt that one would wish the law to be applied in international relations, as it is applied within societies. However, to this day, it is force which ultimately rules. However, we, as member countries of the United Nations, call for the need for the sovereignty of principles and the law.

Consequently there are a number of principles, such as international relations among countries, non-recourse to the use of force in settling disputes, and non-intervention in the internal affairs of other countries. These are all principles which exist and when a violation of them occurs, we say that such and such a country has violated this law and therefore must pay a political price.

AL-MUSAWWAR: In the light of the absence of guarantees for the execution of Security Council resolutions, can one say that the issue of execution may be attributed essentially to the extent to which the countries commit themselves to the charter?

Answer: The Security Council resolutions are still more important than those of the General Assembly. However, I do not mean to say that they are binding. The fact is that they are not being carried out either. They ultimately depend on the degree to which the international community insists that they be carried out, but they are higher in degree than the General Assembly resolutions. That means, from the technical standpoint, that while the General Assembly adopts recommendations, the Security Council is supposed to adopt resolutions.

One thing from which we suffer, we third world and nonaligned countries, is the failure to carry out the resolutions of the Security Council, which is supposed to be the highest agency for maintaining international security and peace.

We wonder, in turn, why its resolutions are not being carried out, if the assembly's resolutions are just recommendations.

We are asking that they be carried out. This is an ongoing, unending process. It is connected to the world that exists outside the framework of this glass building which we call the United Nations.

As regards the latter part of your question, my belief is that there is no specific answer to that, or no clear answer, where I could say what must be done today or tomorrow in this direction. This, as I say, is an ongoing process. It is like freedom. If you cannot obtain it all at once, you will defend your freedom and demand your rights constantly. In reality, the secretary general's treatment of this problem, to which I referred, is extremely important.

Contacts have actually been made, in the light of this report, with members of the Security Council, with the goal of increasing the number of seats of non-permanent members, but the solution to this problem does not require a new resolution, since the thing that is missing is political will.

The United Nations, as an international agency, cannot impose anything on any country which that country absolutely rejects, particularly if this country is a big one. This has been the problem of problems since the universe began.

The situation requires a specific process of building trust among countries. This process is ongoing and despair must not seize us at any moment. We are going through a stage in which there is a serious tendency today. That is the tendency to resolve international conflicts by violence.

It is clear that there has been increasing recourse to the use of violence, in the areas of the third world or in other areas, or in the resolution of local conflicts where one of the two parties is from the third world and the other party is a big country. I do not want to get into details, but that is the prevailing international situation.

AL-MUSAWWAR: Perhaps proof of the countries' lack of despair in the Security Council, and the lack of their total conviction in its ineffectiveness, is that whenever a problem or armed struggle flares up, these countries still turn to the Security Council.

Answer: I do not want to say that doing without the United Nations is just out of the question. However, the United Nations is today performing a function which the world cannot do without. However, that is not, nonetheless, the function that the charter had hoped, and still hopes that the United Nations will perform. It performs its function in technical, economic and social areas, but no one is talking about those. In spite of that, it is also performing an extremely important political function. It is sufficient that the United Nations provides a place every day where the representatives of the countries of the world meet, where they discuss their problems and exchange information. This process goes on every day inside and outside the context of the session. It is a place to which countries turn to complain about aggression that is committed against them and find people to listen to them. Their complaints reach all the governments in the world. Take for example the General Assembly session, in which this large number of world leaders and personalities, who control the world's resources, meets. Attending this session, for example, were President Husni Mubarak, the French president, Mitterrand, the Indian prime minister, Indira Gandhi, and other presidents and prime ministers of most countries of the world. These meetings could not have taken place elsewhere.

If the United Nations had not existed, the world would have invented it.

AL-MUSAWWAR: What is the ambassador's conception of Egypt's role in the Security Council in the course of the next 2 years?

Answer: First, this is not the first time Egypt has gone onto the Security Council. We were in the council in the sixties. That was in fact a very important stage. I can mention a personal side to this matter. I was present in New York, in the Egyptian mission, during this stage, and was given an opportunity to attend the confrontations that occurred between Stevenson and Zorin regarding the problem of the Soviet missiles in Cuba. Egypt was a member of the council at that time.

There is no doubt that Egypt's return to the Security Council seats coincide with an important stage in the history of the evolution of our Arab and African causes. We might mention, with regard to the Middle East issue, that the draft of the Egyptian-French initiative is still pending before the Security Council and that it will probably be raised when we feel that the time is right.

There is no doubt that our presence in the council will lay a great responsibility on our shoulders, as far as the problem of Namibia goes. We will also be given an opportunity to take part in many other areas. One effect of all this is that Egypt's international status will be greatly strengthened.

I do not need to stress that Egypt will always defend Arab causes, whether those are inside or outside the Security Council. That is its historic responsibility.

AL-MUSAWWAR: Do you expect, in the course of Egypt's membership in the council, that consultation will take place regarding the Palestinian cause and the problem of the Middle East with the Arab group during the discussion of either of these two issues? How will that take place? Do such consultations exist at the present time?

Answer: The United Nations, as I mentioned before, performs a function which is not stipulated in the charter, as a place for meetings and daily encounters which whether we like it or not create personal relations among all the delegations which transcend official relations, or the existence or nonexistence of official relations, even when these official relations are going through a critical stage. This, in reality, is the role of diplomacy. You need diplomats in times of trouble. The more the complex the problems are, the more you need for them is.

One effect of this daily presence is that there are of course personal relations. You cannot draw a line separating personal relations from the exchange and coordination of information.

At the present time, when something happens in the Security Council, even when we are not members, it is necessary that I become acquainted with the opinion of one or another representative of the countries, and what one country or another will do. Coordination is always present. I believe that it will continue.

I would like to add that the restoration of Arab ranks has become actual fact. At some time, people were stating it as a form of desire, but today Hasan 'Ali, is meeting with the foreign minister of Iraq, Mr Tariq 'Azziz. Before that he visited Iraq and also visited Jordan, although there are no diplomatic relations between Egypt and Iraq and Jordan. As you know, Dr Butrus Ghali, the minister of state for foreign affairs, also met with the Lebanese president, Amin al-Jumayil.

The issue of the restoration of Arab ranks is no longer a form of desire. The strength of these relations has manifested itself by the fact that all the Arab ambassadors, even the Libyan ambassador, came forward to congratulate me for Egypt's acquisition of membership in the Security Council.

VARIOUS ACHIEVEMENTS OF PLAN IN FIRST YEAR REVIEWED, QUESTIONED

Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-IQTISADI in Arabic No 775, 21 Nov 83 pp 12-13

[Article by Dr Jalal Amin: "The Truth about the Achievements of the First Year of the Plan in Reducing the Inflation Rate and the Balance of Payments Deficit"]

[Text] In official statements by people in charge of economic policy in Egypt, following the end of the first year of the 5-year plan, 1982-83, praise has repeatedly been made of two accomplishments, which, if they are real, would be a source of real happiness for everyone who is interested in the health of the Egyptian economy, whose condition is primarily related to the inflation rate, and then to the balance of payments deficit.

These two accomplishments may be summarized by:

1. A great drop in the rate of growth of money in circulation, from 44.3 percent in 1981-82 to 26.2 percent in 1982-83, which, according to official statements, signals a great drop in the inflation rate.
2. A great drop in the deficit in the balance of current transactions, from 2,065,000,000 pounds in 1981-82 to 1.31 million in 1982-83. This, according to these statements also, signals the beginning of a reduction in the permanent balance of payments deficit.

In this article, we will attempt to examine the true state of these two accomplishments.

The rate of inflation and the money supply:

There is no dispute that there is a firm relationship between the size of the money supply and the inflation rate, and that reducing the rate of growth of the money supply, assuming that the rate of growth of real production and goods and services, the rapidity of transactions of cash and the distribution of the money supply among its various components, remain constant, must be reflected in a drop in the inflation rate. Thus, the relationship that exists between the money supply and the rate of inflation is not a direct, simple one, where we can always deduce a drop in the rate

of inflation from the drop in the rate of growth of the money supply; rather, we must also investigate the components of the money supply and the changes that might occur in those.

This is because the money supply takes a number of forms, some very closely related to the rise in prices and some not. The money supply includes money in circulation (in the form of coin and currency), current deposits (that is, current accounts in banks), and non-current accounts (that is, term deposits with banks or savings funds). The first group constitutes that form of the money supply that is most closely connected to prices, especially in countries like Egypt where the use of current accounts for buying and selling has not ordinarily been as widespread as in the industrial countries. Non-current deposits are the form of money supply that is least connected to inflation, and therefore they are called "quasi-cash," to distinguish them from the other two groups, which make up "cash."

If that is the case, then it is important that we know whether success in reducing the money supply may basically be attributed to cash or to quasi-cash. By reading the preliminary report of the Ministry of Planning on the accomplishments of the first year of the plan issued last August, we find that the figures cited in it call in no way for self-congratulation. The money in circulation during the year increased at a rate that was very close to the rate of increase in the preceding year (27.3 percent in 1982-83 as compared with 28.1 percent in 1981-82), and current deposits increased by a rate that is much greater than the preceding year (29.7 percent in comparison with 19.9 percent in 1981-82). This means that the drop in the money supply is attributable only to the drop in non-current deposits. These latter deposits are in local currency or foreign currencies; the former increased during the year by 22.4 percent, while the latter dropped sharply (by 62 percent). Therefore it seems that all the talk about the drop in the rate of the growth of the money supply ultimately refers to the sharp drop in term deposits in foreign currencies, which may be basically attributed to the drop in the rate of interest on foreign currencies, which had risen sharply in 1981-82. That, in turn, may be attributed to fluctuations in the interest rates in the international markets, not to measures the Egyptian government has taken. That in any event is also a change of very limited effect in reducing the inflation rate in Egypt.

The Deficit in the Balance of Trade:

The figures of the Ministry of Planning's preliminary report indicate that a perceptible improvement has occurred in the balance of payments, since the deficit in the balance of commercial activities for 1982-83 dropped by about 755 million pounds from its level of the previous year, and the deficit did not exceed 1.31 billion pounds, while a deficit of 1.58 billion had been foreseen in the plan.

It would be proper to consider this drop in the deficit a source of real joy, had it happened as the result of increases in non-traditional exports or a drop in nonessential imports, a drop in government spending in foreign currency on matters that are not of much benefit, or a drop in the burden of servicing our foreign debt. However, we are not much overjoyed by it, since

it was the result of the increase in remittances of Europeans working abroad or in Suez Canal revenues; in saying this, we are repeating what Egyptian economists are unanimous about. People's voices have gone hoarse repeating that Egypt has been relying since the mid-seventies on sources of foreign currency that are not assured or whose continuation is not guaranteed. The most important of these are the remittances and Suez Canal revenues, not to speak of tourist activity and oil. Indeed, we are not saying anything here that differs from the statement the 5-year plan itself made regarding the past year, when it defined its goals bearing on the balance of payments. The plan document says,

"Getting rid of the deficit while preserving the current structure of exports will not bring about a decisive solution to the problem, since the economy will continue to be very sensitive in the face of sudden foreign and domestic circumstances, because of reliance on oil exports, the Suez Canal, tourist activity and the remittances of Egyptians abroad. In this regard, it is worth pointing to the gap which last year (1981-82) witnessed between estimates and reality, which arose from the fact that oil was affected by the world price drop and the Suez Canal through the movement of oil, as well as from fluctuations in foreign currency, tourist activity and the remittances of Egyptians, due to sudden local circumstances for the most part" (volume one, pages 37-38).

It is obligatory, then, that we ask how this drop in the deficit in commercial activities could have been realized when we find that receipts from agricultural and industrial exports increased only by 5 million pounds in the first year of the plan (from 750 to 755 million pounds), that is, by a rate of no more than 1 percent (page 80 of the preliminary report and page 160 of volume one of the plan), which must be described as stagnation, not an increase.

As a result of that, the deficit which occurred in the balance of trade came to 3,745,000,000 pounds in 1982-83; that was 65 million pounds more than the deficit in the year preceding the plan and 245 million more than the anticipated deficit.

The improvement in the balance of commercial activities therefore did not come about through an improvement in the balance of trade, whose condition deteriorated during the year.

The improvement did not come about, either, through pressure on government spending in foreign currencies. The figures in the report point out that it was the target to stabilize the subsection on government expenditures at 170 million pounds between 1981-82 and 1982-83, but that rose to 181 million.

In addition, we have in front of us a large subsection in the balance of commercial activities titled "other payments," whose value accounts for three times "government expenditures," which it was anticipated would be 550 million pounds but turned out to be 867 million, or an increase of 58 percent over the targeted amount.

We also have before us figures which indicate that our spending on tourist activity abroad rose from 200 million pounds in 1981-82 to 249 million, that is, increased by 25 percent, while our payments on tourist activity had been proceeding downward in the 3 years previous to that (that is, they dropped from 187 million pounds in 1978-79 to 181 million in 1979-80, then 168 in 1980-81) (page 31 of volume one of the plan).

More important than that, what we paid in the form of interest on loans, profits, and other revenues remitted abroad increased from 620 million pounds in 1981-82 (including 575 million in interest on loans) to 794 million, or by 28 percent, an increase of 10 percent over the plan target.

Therefore only two subsections remain that can explain the drop in the deficit in the balance of commercial activities: revenues from the Suez Canal (which increased from 620 million pounds to 669 million, or by 8 percent), and remittances of Egyptians working abroad (which in their totality, in cash and assets, increased from 1,446,000,000 pounds to 2,152,000,000, or by 48 percent).

Thus it is apparent that the total increase in these two subsections was 49 plus 706 or 755 million pounds, which is exactly equal to the size of the drop in the deficit of the balance of current payments.

2,065 minus 1,310 equals 755: the increases and decreases in the other subsections have cancelled one another out.

One can say, therefore, that the improvement in the balance of commercial activities last year may be attributed almost entirely to just one cause, the increase in remittances of people working abroad, which is something that it is difficult for us to portray as representing any improvement in the structure of the Egyptian balance of payments. This, and similar matters, are what the plan claimed that it had been drawn up to correct. The Egyptian planners, as they were writing the plan document, had previously expressed their complaints about excessive reliance on the remittances of Egyptians abroad, describing them thus:

"They did not arise from local production, and therefore it was necessary that to a large extent they bring in imports with them, especially since they entailed volumes and patterns of consumption which local productive capacity had not been prepared for and was not flexible enough to be able to provide at the necessary speed" (volume one of the plan, page 15).

Indeed, it is also difficult for us to portray this increase in the remittances of Egyptians working abroad as the result of success in economic policy. The abovementioned Ministry of Planning report claims as much, stating that this increase:

"May essentially be attributed to the grant of permission by the government to branches of Egyptian banks in Arab countries to accumulate the savings of Egyptians working there through price incentives that have resulted in a great increase in their remittances in cash and in kind" (page 74).

However, it is not clear to us why the price incentives should lead to an increase in remittances in kind, which make up the bulk of the remittances, and whose increase accounts for 60 percent of the increase in total remittances. Indeed, these incentives should probably lead to an increase in cash remittances at the expense of remittances in kind, but this has not happened, since the two increased at approximately the same rate (49.3 percent and 48.5 percent, respectively).

Rather, the basic reason for the increase in remittances, in our opinion, becomes clear when one refers to the volume of the remittances in 1980-81, when cash remittances were 818 million pounds and remittances in kind were 1.07 billion, for a total of 1,888,000,000. What happened, then, is that while the remittances in 1982-83 had increased sharply over the year directly preceding (by 48 percent), they were only 14 percent greater than what they were in 1980-81. The balance of current payments, then, shows an improvement only in comparison with an anomalous figure (1981-82) when the remittances dropped sharply (by 25 percent), perhaps because of the prevailing feeling of a lack of confidence over the course of Egyptian economic policy in the months following the assassination of the former president. The remittances then returned to their natural level in 1982-83.

In summary, then, the improvement in the balance of commercial activities in the last year may be attributed almost entirely to a single cause, which is the increase in the remittances of Egyptians abroad. However, this increase, for the most part, was only a rise from the extremely low, abnormal level which had occurred in the year directly preceding. This was not the first time in recent years that the balance of commercial activities registered a temporary improvement for reasons which have no relationship to political economic growth. In 1979-80, the deficit in the balance of current activities dropped by about half, then rose once again in 1980-81, by 65 percent.

If that is correct, there is not the least reason for complacency over the "success" of the liberalization policy in improving the state of the balance of payments, or for confidence that the drop in the deficit will continue in coming years. Therefore there is nothing to inspire the belief that a similar upsurge will occur in the coming year in the remittances of workers abroad. If the oil prices remain as they are, and the performance of industrial and agricultural exports remains as it is, we will have to expect an increase in the deficit next year.

11887
CSO: 4504/76

HEAD OF WORLD BANK'S EGYPT DESK ON RELATIONSHIP WITH ECONOMIC LEADERS

Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-IQTISADI in Arabic No 775, 21 Nov 83 pp 18-21

[Interview with Alberto Favella, World Bank Official for Egypt, by Jamal Zayidah: "AL-IQTISADI in an Interview with a Senior Official in the World Bank"]

[Text] Where has the relationship with the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development brought us? What is the extent of the truth in the statements which are being bruited about, to the effect that the World Bank is interfering by directing economic policy in the countries of the third world, including Egypt? What is the truth about the World Bank's resident mission which is to be sent to Egypt? What is the truth about the contacts which have gone on between Egyptians who are responsible for the economic sector and the World Bank on this mission? Does the fact that the World Bank gives Egypt some loans to finance some development projects in Egypt give it the right to investigate and oversee the Egyptian economic situation, all on the pretext of guaranteeing the shareholders' money? Numerous questions crowded about in my head as I went on my way from the hotel where I was staying in the heart of the American capital, Washington D.C., to 1818 [sic] Street, where the site of the World Bank is located, to meet with the person in charge of Egypt in the bank, to seek answers to these vexing questions, especially since the tone of the discussion about the bank's unfair conditions in the countries of the third world has been heightened recently. To finance some development projects in Egypt, the bank stipulates intervention in all matters, large and small, related to the administration of the domestic economy, on the pretext of guaranteeing the money of the stockholders as represented by the member countries. Indeed, by the admission of one of its experts, Eugene (Rutteridge), the bank is considered stiffer and more adamant, in his words, than any other commercial organizations as far as lending goes. It rains down a hail of questions and expects answers to them on everything related to the loans. These are questions which only the bank, among commercial lending institutions, addresses itself to. The situation is not confined to this but also extends to studies on the per capita national income level, the likelihood for its development in the future, and a study on the rate of growth of the population and the savings rate. Experts in the bank also examine the situation with respect to foreign currency, borrowing sources, the tax base, the rate of trade and possibilities for the future.

An interview took place with the World Bank expert on these points. The interview was clear and frank, contrary to what I had expected. At the beginning, I imagined that I would receive only diplomatic answers to my questions. The reason for the warmth of the interview might be the fact that Mr Alberto Favella, who is responsible for Egypt in the World Bank, belongs to one of the countries of the third world, and that he has lived with it and is aware of its circumstances. He is a government employee from Colombia, one of the countries of Latin America. He occupies the position of section head in Department One of the programs in the area of Europe, the Middle East and North Africa.

At the start of my conversation, I asked Mr Alberto Favella, "What is your evaluation of the actual state of the economic situation in Egypt?"

He said, "The government's economic management has improved thanks to the economic measures and reforms it has recently pursued, such as changing the interest rates and trying to benefit from the savings of Egyptians working abroad, as well as trying to control imports. The situation has also improved because of the pursuit of a number of additional measures, among them control of spending and sources of transfer such as taxes and so forth, and the issuance by the government of the recent 5-year plan, which spells out priorities for the government. The situation has also improved as a result of coordination among the recent economic measures. Therefore it is anticipated that in the coming stage the Egyptian economy will experience large inflationary pressures. All these factors have given the World Bank encouraging signs regarding the future of the Egyptian economy. However, none of these indices ought to make us forget that Egypt faces a number of problems, and these problems still exist. Some of them come as a result of the accumulated burdens of the past, from before the wars with Israel; in addition, the increase in the population also represents a big problem as far as Egypt goes; the rates of population increase exceed a million a year, which results in an increase in food imports, which last year came to 3.3 billion pounds. In addition, there is the problem of prices. We are convinced that encouraging measures have been taken on the part of the government to solve these problems, and therefore it is expected that the condition of the Egyptian economy will improve. We are also convinced that the takeoff stage for the Egyptian economy will not take place before 10 years."

Belt Tightening

[Question] How then can the Egyptian economy get out of the financial predicament?

Mr Favella: That can be done only by increasing the rates of investment. In order to increase the rates of investment, it is necessary to increase the savings rates. Savings come from two sources, from exports and from belt-tightening. How can we achieve that? By a number of means, among the most important of which are encouraging increased revenues from taxes, reducing subsidies and reducing the rates of spending. In addition, it is necessary to reduce the rates of population growth and limit borrowing from abroad. That can be done by borrowing a percentage of the capital needed for investment, as well as arranging the remaining proportion from real savings.

[Question] A big question is raised by a large number of Egyptian economists on the conditions the World Bank sets out before granting Egypt new loans. What is your comment on that?

Mr Favella: The World Bank has offered Egypt about \$3 billion up to the end of December 1983 to finance 62 projects. With regard to your question, I believe that there is a misunderstanding with regard to the World Bank's conditions. The bank believes that it is necessary to make a group of economic reforms to guarantee that the economic development process in Egypt will move forward. There are many problems which must be solved. For instance, there is what Eng Ahmad 'Izz-al-Din Hilal told me to the effect that the government loses 3 billion pounds a year subsidizing petroleum products in Egypt. In addition, Egypt has a number of resources, such as the Suez Canal, which are unique ones that other countries besides Egypt do not have. Therefore, it is necessary to invest these resources to create more cash and raise the standard of living in the country. These are the World Bank's principles. The bank does not impose conditions; it just wants to guarantee a healthy climate for the Egyptian people. We do not have the desire to impose conditions, because the World Bank is an international development institution. There is misunderstanding all over the world about the bank's policies; the conditions the bank sets out are not to the bank's benefit so much as to the benefit of various peoples.

The question now is, how can one develop Egypt's resources through investment? The solution is whether Egypt is to eat off its resources, such as the Suez Canal and oil, or eat part of the resources and direct another part to investment, which will be feasible only by diversifying the sources of exports by controlling prices and giving incentives to producers. It is necessary that prices be in keeping with the market. The peasants will be able to increase production if their incentives are increased, and in addition machinery and mechanization are used in increasing agricultural production. It is also necessary to use scientific methods for farming the agricultural land three times a year. In Egypt you do not have extensive areas of farmland, and therefore you have to intensify the farming. This can all be realized if the peasant gets a feasible price for selling his crops, and therefore he comes to have the resources to buy tractors and small machines for cutting rice and harvesting wheat. The World Bank has not advised Egypt not to increase farmland. When we express advice to China, we do not tell the Chinese "be capitalists."

The Liberalization, and Correction of the Course

[Question] A number of distortions in the structure of the Egyptian economy have been produced by the execution and application of the policy of economic liberalization in Egypt. What is your view on correcting the course of the economy in Egypt?

Mr Alberto: After the policy of economic liberalization was carried out, you started to have two sectors, the private and the public, and you started to have a large problem, which was how to reconcile prices in the two sectors. For this reason the price system must play a big role in the Egyptian economy. Because of the disruption in prices, for instance, the consumption

of electricity is increasing by 15 percent a year. There no longer is any solution to the problem of electric energy supply other than by collecting the real costs. Here in the United States, for instance, anyone who consumes a larger amount of electricity must pay the price for this system. In addition there is increasing spending with respect to petroleum energy. Anyone driving a car must pay the real price for the gasoline. In addition, the prices of tickets for transportation must pay for the real costs.

[Question] You are always calling for the correction of the price structure, but you ignore that the wage levels are very low in Egypt. If the structure of prices is corrected without an increase in wages, that will result in suffering for large segments of the Egyptian people as a consequence.

Mr Alberto: I do not deny that there are broad segments of the population suffering from poverty in Egypt, and therefore we are not against an improvement of incomes in Egypt. However, each individual must sacrifice, and the poor people must work seriously. But how can you expect an improvement in the service the Electricity Authority provides without an increase in the price of electricity? What is happening now is that the government is trying to prompt the production sectors to increase agricultural production and diversify exports, we are offering loans to train manpower, and three projects are being financed which will result in an increase in the skill of the labor which is employed in these projects, which will result in an increase in the incomes of this labor. In order to help the population with limited incomes, subsidies must be directed toward them. The World Bank has suggested to the Egyptian government that subsidies for the poor people continue until their level rises, and that the case not be kept as it is now, where large groups of Egyptians have subsidies though they are not entitled to them. Here subsidies must not be continued in an absolute fashion for the poor; rather, they must be trained in new skills so that they will be offered job opportunities. Another of the bank's suggestions is that tax collecting competence be raised -- not to have the government impose new taxes but have the law strengthened. I believe that Dr Salah Hamid, the minister of finance, has started to strengthen the capabilities of the Tax Department, and this has led to an increase in tax receipts of 450 million pounds in 7 months. I believe that what happened last year gives us new grounds for hope. We hope to do much in Egypt, and we really want to help it, because there is no other way.

Let me emphasize again that a correction must be created in the price structure. Hungary has started to do that. So has Rumania, and they have not become capitalist countries. Prices must reflect real costs.

A Resident Mission!

[Question] What are the most recent results of the contacts between the World Bank and the Egyptian government on sending a resident bank mission to Cairo?

Mr Alberto Favella: I believe that Egypt is a very important country. Therefore the bank must also play an important role in Egypt. The reason for sending a resident bank mission to Egypt is that the mission can help become

acquainted with projects, follow up on them, and offer advice to the government. That is not the first precedent in the history of the World Bank, since we have resident missions in other countries. We have resident missions in India, Pakistan, Indonesia, Thailand, Kenya, Madagascar and Saudi Arabia to advise the governments and give them technical support. We have other offices in Europe and Japan whose task is to facilitate the acquisition of capital. In other countries, these missions' task is to express advice and follow up on the projects the bank finances. The followup task can be performed from Washington but it will not be effective, because direct contact is better. Egypt will not pay the residence expenses of this mission; rather, it is the World Bank that will pay. This mission will provide us with great assistance since it will help streamline communications between the Egyptian government and the World Bank. For example, in one irrigation project, the Ministry of Irrigation corresponds with the bank's headquarters in Washington on a project, then the bank studies the project and replies to the ministry, but, in the event the delegation is sent, that will shorten these procedures a great deal. The mission resident in Cairo will consist of one person at the beginning. The Egyptian government has agreed to accept the mission. The following stage will be to send the names of bank experts who will belong to this mission. The World Bank office in Cairo will have full powers to resolve problems which might occur during negotiations. We will not go to Cairo to hold the government to account, but rather to offer further aid, which is what we do with Hungary and Rumania. It is the Egyptian government that will manage its economy, not the World Bank. We have not told the Indonesians or Indians how to run their economy.

[Question] What are the results of the contacts which took place between you and the Egyptian economic group recently in Washington?

Mr Alberto Favella: We discussed with Dr Salah Hamid, the minister of finance, the lending program and we reviewed all activities, including the issue of the resident mission. We also discussed some projects which the bank will finance, such as agricultural or education projects or the expansion and development of the harbor in Port Said. There also is the possibility for the bank to take part in some 5-year plan projects, and a World Bank delegation will come to Cairo this November to prepare for a great export program. The bank will offer a new loan of \$300 milion to support the export projects.

Mr Alberto Favella concluded his conversation by saying:

"In Washington we have the best intentions toward Egypt. Some people do not like them, but there is no alternative to putting them into effect."

11887
CSO: 4504/76

WEEKLY URGES BLOODY REVENGE, BREAK WITH FRANCE

PM251519 Tripoli AL-ZAHF AL-AKHDAR in Arabic 21 Nov 83 p 1

[Editorial: "Revenge, Revenge"]

[Excerpt] It is shameful for the Arab nation to maintain any form of relations with France after today. It is shameful for the Arab nation to see our blood spilled by the French without our spilling French blood. It is shameful for the Arab nation not to set fire to every French interest in the Arab homeland and not to bring French interests down on the heads of the French invaders.

The revolutionary committees firmly and resolutely urge the Arab masses to do all that. France must pay the price in blood. There is no other form of compensation for France's murder of Palestinian and Lebanese people recently and for its murder of Arabs throughout the bloody conflict since the crusades back in the 11th century. Although the scene of conflict at present is Lebanon, the Arab nation should regard the entire Arab homeland as a battlefield, because there is no difference between the Hebrew oppressors and the French crusade invaders and their U.S. and British partners. For every Arab citizen and for every Arab child killed by the French invaders, 100 French people should die, because nothing will deter those criminal cowards except killing them and giving them a taste of the fire of vengeance. We must destroy with our own hands the new French crusade led by the bloody terrorist crusader Mitterrand.

The revolutionary committees request and urge the people's conferences throughout Libya to adopt an immediate and firm decision to sever relations with the French imperialist government headed by Mitterrand and to destroy French interests. They urge the Arab masses to pressure their governments into severing their relations with France. They urge the Arab masses to wreak vengeance on France immediately by breaking off relations with it, preventing the landing and refueling of French planes at Arab airports, even setting fire to those planes, and physically liquidating all the French people in the Arab countries, causing rivers of blood to flow from French arteries.

CSO: 4500/22

BRIEFS

POPULATION STATISTICS--Rabat, Nov 23 (MAP)--The number of inhabitants forming the legal population of Morocco was 20,419,555 as of September 1982, date of the latest census. Not included in this figure are Moroccans resident abroad (about 1 million) and foreign members of the diplomatic and consular corps. It comprises, however, other foreigners resident in Morocco (62,000), according to the July-August issue of the monthly information review of LA BANQUE MAROCAINE DE COMMERCE EXTERIEUR. Of the population, 57.2 percent was rural and 42.8 percent urban. These percentages were respectively 64.9 and 35.1 in July 1971 when the previous census was taken; the number of households was 3,432,858 (5.95 individuals per household versus 5.59 in 1971). More than 10 percent of the population is concentrated in Casablanca (2,139,204) and 4 percent in Rabat-Sala (815,515). Other large cities include Fas (448,823), Marrakesh (439,728), Meknas (319,783), Tangier (266,346), and Wujda (260,082). The cities with the highest demographic growth are Sala (plus 86.0 percent in 1971-1982), Agadir (plus 80.5 percent), Bni Mellal (plus 76.5 percent, Khribga (plus 72.6 percent), and Laayoun. [Text] [LD241115 Rabat MAP in English 1220 GMT 23 Nov 83 LD]

CSO: 4500/22

BRIEFS

CHEVRON CAMP IN SOUTH ROBBED, ONE DEAD- A report has been published on the attack on the camp of a subcontractor working for Chevron. The report said that the attack took place the day before yesterday, in the evening, after David Hubbard and Peter Lindstrom, the directors of two Chevron Camps, arrived in a subcontracting company's camp located in the southern part of the country. The accident took place at about 2045 on Sunday, after the camp had turned off the lights and prepared to go to sleep. Suddenly someone turned on the lights and asked the two directors to wake up. The directors saw three people including a 15-year-old boy, standing at the camp's gate. In a sharp and nervous manner, one of the men asked that he immediately be given money. He was holding a semiautomatic pistol similar to those used by policemen, as Lindstrom described it. Under the threat of arms, the two directors told the men where the money was kept. After opening the locker, the boy took a bundle of bank notes and put it inside a briefcase that belonged to one of the two directors. After that, the little boy walked out the door accompanied by one of the armed men. The other men fired his pistol, killing David Hubbard. The men immediately disappeared. [Excerpts] [JN061555 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1420 GMT 6 Dec 83]

CSO: 4500/23

JORDAN

BRIEFS

AVIATION AGREEMENT WITH CHINA--It was reported here yesterday that Jordan and China have agreed to start civilian air flights between the capitals of the two countries. Under the terms of this agreement, a direct air route will be opened between Amman and Peking, as of the end of this year. An official Jordanian delegation will travel to China within a week. Text
Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 25 Sep 83 p 12 7587

CSO: 4404/57

POSSIBLE CONFRONTATION BETWEEN U.S., SYRIA IN LEBANON

London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic No 197, 19-25 Nov 83 pp 14-15

[Article by Nadim Nasir: "The American Concentrations in Lebanon: The Plan and the Goal."]

[Text] What brought Ronald Reagan to the White House? The answer, in all simplicity, is that he was able to convince America's voters that the United States, during his administration, would not turn its right cheek to someone who had slapped it on its left cheek. The American voters felt a great sense of humiliation concerning the inability of the Carter administration to rescue the hostages from the American Embassy in Tehran. But the crisis of the American hostages was solved on the day Reagan took power in the White House, and the nature of the plan he was readying to save them was not revealed. When Reagan came to power, he brought with himself an administration whose members he had chosen from among elements known for their extremism in confronting the Soviets and their friends. The administration formed its tattered foreign policy within this context. Therefore, we must see the American naval concentrations off the Lebanese coast in this context, too, before seeing it in terms of America's regional strategy.

Before the command post of the American Marines was blown up on 23 October, the Marines had, in the eyes of many Lebanese factions, gone beyond the limits of the mission for whose sake they had come to Beirut. This was the mission of preserving peace and helping the government of President Amin al-Jumayyil to strengthen the foundations of its authority. The intervention by the Marines in the fighting between the Druze and the Lebanese army was the decisive factor behind the failure of the Druze to storm Suq al-Gharb and reach the gates of Beirut. This departure from the framework of their peace-keeping mission changed the American forces, in the view of many Lebanese factions which take sides in the conflict. Consequently, these forces became a military target of their activity. Naturally, the Pentagon made no secret of the fact that it expected attacks against the Marines to occur as a result of the fundamental transformation of the American role in Lebanon. However, when the blow came, it was more horrible than the worst expectations, it negated Reagan and his administration's [original] mistakes. Did he threaten to take revenge on those responsible for the incident because he wanted to keep his promise to the American electorate in an election year and not allow anyone to "push the United States around"? Or are there other, deeper reasons?

While evincing their concern over the increase in the number of American victims in Beirut, moderates in the United States and even some hard-liners in Europe, like Mrs Margaret Thatcher, believe that the threat of retaliation is an emotional outburst not based on a practical foundation which serves Western interests. These people, who are warning Reagan of the result of any retaliatory operation and its complications, have pointed out that such an operation would produce the following:

--It would prevent the reaching of any probable agreement at the Lebanese dialogue conference in Geneva.

--It would cause the disintegration of the fragile cease-fire in Lebanon.

--The disintegration of the cease-fire agreement would sink the Marines deeper and deeper into the Lebanese conflict.

--Increasing American involvement in Lebanon would spark a dispute with the European countries participating in the multinational peace-keeping force. These countries might withdraw their forces and leave Reagan to confront the explosive situation alone.

--A retaliatory operation would provoke Syria, which might cut all contact with the Americans, thereby ending the mission of Donald Rumsfeld, Reagan's special envoy to the Middle East. Rumsfeld's mission is to achieve an agreement for the removal of all foreign forces from Lebanon.

Does it make sense to think that these dangers have gone unnoticed by Ronald Reagan? The answer, naturally, is in the negative. Therefore, why is Reagan trying to destroy with a single blow what he seemed to be building last year, especially now that there is clear evidence that the warring Lebanese leaders are on the verge of agreement? If Reagan is insisting, for electoral reasons, on carrying out a limited retaliatory operation which could be absorbed by the situation in Lebanon without a threat of dangerous complications, then why is he building up an armada of 30 warships, 300 aircraft and 30,000 soldiers, in a provocative manner which is escalating the inflamed situation?

Nature of the Maneuvers

These naval concentrations have been described as routine, periodic maneuvers. Of course, this justification is elastic. The Pentagon used it while preparing for the invasion of Grenada. It can be discounted immediately. Since World War II, the United States has never concentrated such an armada in the Mediterranean, for routine considerations or not. Therefore, the Syrian factor must be prominent in American planning. Syria, in the view of the United States, is "an ambitious local state aiming to become the chief Arab power in the region and extend its influence over the neighboring Arab states." It would be possible for the United States to disregard this ambition, or even encourage it, if it were not for the connections between Syria and the Soviet Union, especially the friendship treaty which binds the two countries together. In the American view, which perceives only shades of red, Syria is the last Soviet foothold in the region. Syria's ambition, which is accompanied by Soviet support, has

always activated a red light in the Pentagon. This was the reason why Alexander Haig, with Reagan behind him, blessed the Israeli invasion of Lebanon last year. The goal was to prepare the scene for the removal of the Syrians from Lebanon. They and the Soviet role in the region were to be cut down to size. However, despite what happened in Lebanon during the Israeli invasion, especially in the aerial battles, Syria came out of that reversal with more military strength than it had had before, after the Soviets made up for its losses with better, more modern equipment. This equipment includes SS 21 missiles--without nuclear warheads--with a range of 90 kilometers, as well as advanced air defences which are said to be manned by Soviet experts. The Syrians are convinced of Lebanon's security-related and strategic importance for their country. They are also determined not to allow Lebanon to leave the Arab ranks and fall under the influence of Tel Aviv in accordance with the Israeli-Lebanese agreement, which President al-Jumayyil is trying to replace with a military agreement with Israel. Therefore, Reagan and his advisors have become more convinced that Syria can only be removed from Lebanon and cut down to size by military force. Does this mean that the United States is using the naval concentrations to prepare for a comprehensive confrontation with Syria in Lebanon? The Syrians are so convinced of America's bad intentions that they have called up their reserve forces. The Syrians offer as evidence America's reconnaissance flights over the areas they control in the Biqa' and the position-locating operations undertaken by the Marines in the Shuf region (the Marines claim they undertake these operations for the Lebanese Army), as well as the effort to revive the strategic cooperation agreement with Israel. Syria is so worried about America's bad intentions that it has sent Mr 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, its foreign minister, on an unannounced trip to the Soviet Union in order to make sure of the Soviet position in case the Syrian forces in Lebanon should be exposed to American attacks.

Reasons for the Concentrations

However, some observers in the West think it unlikely that Reagan will be pulled into a direct confrontation with Syria. These people think that the American naval concentrations may be intended to flex America's muscles and convince President al-Asad that the Americans are serious about the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon.

Or, they could be a precaution taken to prevent the area of armed conflict from expanding if the Americans undertake a limited retaliatory operation. Such an operation would be against the Shi'ite positions in South Beirut, the stronghold of the Shi'ite leader Husayn Musawi, who is supported by the Iranians in the city of Ba'labakk, the Druze and Palestinian positions in the Shuf, or all these targets together. For the Americans say that ground-to-ground missiles have been seen being transported across the Syrian lines to Shi'ite positions in the southern suburbs of Beirut and Palestinian and Druze positions in the Shuf. They say these missiles are a direct threat to their forces near the airport. As for the stronghold of Hysayn Musawi in Ba'labakk, it is a probable American target because the Americans think that he was behind the bombings at the American, French and Israeli headquarters.

Finally, these observers think the concentrations could be intended as a precaution in case developments occur on the Arab scene.

Long-Term Goal

It is clear that the long-term goal of the United States is to diminish the role of Syria in the region, thereby diminishing the Soviet role as well. In order to achieve this goal, the United States needs Israel's support.

Therefore, it sent Lawrence Eagleburger, the assistant secretary of state for political affairs, to Israel to revive the strategic cooperation agreement. Despite the disaster which has been visited upon Israel's policy in Lebanon, the increase in its material and human losses there, its economic problems, which are strongly connected with its presence in Lebanon, and the rejection by Israeli public opinion of involvement in any new war, the price Washington seems ready to offer is very tempting.

It seems that the United States is ready, in accordance with this alliance, to undertake stronger political, economic and strategic cooperation with Israel. This would include ending the limits imposed on the spending of American funds for the development of the new Israeli aircraft, the "Lavi," thereby allowing Israeli to spend \$300 million a year for this purpose out of the total of \$1.7 billion that the United States gives Israel each year. The United States might change a large portion of Israel's loans to grants in order to help it alleviate its economic crisis and in order to lighten the interest burden it bears. As for the military aspects, they include storing weapons and equipment for the American Rapid Deployment Force in Israel and carrying out joint naval and air exercises. The United States will contribute to the development of Israel's Lavi aircraft, despite the opposition of the Congress, which fears that this aircraft will compete with American planes which are sold to Israel and other countries in the world. Last week, Yitzhak Shamir went to visit the positions of the Israeli forces in South Lebanon. He met a number of Israeli officers and soldiers. One of them confronted him and asked him insistently why the Israeli soldiers, who act like the Nazi troops did during their occupation of Europe, did not return to their homes. Shamir responded that they were not there because the Israeli Government wanted them to be, but because they had to remain in Lebanon. Perhaps this spontaneous answer, given in a moment of embarrassment, reveals the nature of Israel's role in Lebanon, within the broader American strategy for the region. Despite Israel's historic ambitions in South Lebanon, it is currently acting with an awareness of joint American-Israeli interests, which have the aim of diminishing the Syrian-Soviet role. Although for the time being it might not be prepared, due to purely domestic reasons, for coordinating a large military operation with the United States against Syria, being content to offer assistance in the areas of intelligence, aerial reconnaissance, and electronic spying, this sort of military cooperation will be part of the agreement of strategic alliance between the two countries in the future. For the time being, the United States might not want to involve Israel in its strategic plans in Lebanon, lest it destroy the last of America's influence in the Arab region.

However, even if we ignore the real goals Washington has for the huge naval concentrations on the Lebanese coast, it is clear that they will raise tension there to the boiling point. The mere presence of this force raises the probability of a clash with Syria which might begin by accident. If Syria's air

defenses had shot down one of the four American planes over the Biqa' last week, the Americans would not have been slow to retaliate.

Who can guarantee the Americans that Syria will stand by and watch if the Marines undertake some limited retaliatory operation, especially if it happens behind their lines in Ba'labakk? Who can guarantee them that the Soviets, despite the anxiety in the Kremlin produced by what is said to be Andropov's illness, will refrain from supporting Syria, especially if a comprehensive confrontation occurs in which the Americans strike bases inside Syria itself? Reagan is not only playing with fire, he is threatening to detonate the entire volcano of the Middle East.

12224

CSO: 4404/154

COMMERCIAL AUTHORITIES REQUEST REDRESS IN BALANCE OF TRADE WITH EGYPT

Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 24 Oct 83 p 6

[Article by 'Adnan al-Hajj: "Lebanese-Egyptian Economic Relations Resume Unilaterally: A Lebanese Dispute over Execution or Amendment of the 1965 Protocol"]

[Text] The issue of economic relations with the Arab Republic of Egypt and the revival of the commercial protocol concluded by the two countries in 1965, whose execution was suspended in 1979, is absorbing the full interest of officials in the public and private sectors, as Lebanon attempts to make up for the markets it lost through the Israeli invasion and the Israeli-Egyptian agreement, because of the consequent boycott resolutions that were issued by the Arab summit in Baghdad.

The interest of officials in the Egyptian market at this stage comes after the Israeli invasion in summer 1982 had resulted in the shrinkage of the Arab markets open to Lebanese exports, which declined by rates of from 20 to 40 percent, varying according to the importance of each market, when compared with corresponding periods prior to the Israeli invasion.

The Egyptian market would not have been considered so important had the other Arab markets, especially those in the Gulf and Syria, sustained the volume of their imports from Lebanon. However, the speculation Lebanese goods face in the Arab markets, especially those in the Gulf, and the difficulties which have been imposed by these markets on some categories of goods, out of fear of infiltration by Israeli goods which swept the Lebanese market in the first stage of the invasion, caused Lebanese attention to be focused in one way or another on the Egyptian market, in an attempt to regain it, and on the execution of the protocol. This requires that Egypt buy Lebanese agricultural products which are now facing the threat of slump (citrus and apples), especially since these have been directly harmed by the invasion, as Israeli production has competed with them on their own ground as a result of Israel's pursuit of a flooding policy in southern Lebanon, which led to a perceptible drop in the local marketing of Lebanese products.

In addition to that, Lebanese production faces pressure from European and Middle Eastern products in the Arab market, on top of the large material

damages which have been inflicted on the sectors of agricultural production through the cutting down of trees and the destruction of the property of farmers, who also are enduring difficulties in disposition of goods, rates for coolers, which add to the cost of their production, and problems in marketing.

The legislative decree recently issued, on the basis of a recommendation by the National Council on Foreign Economic Relations, which calls for apple and citrus exports to be subsidized at a rate of 5 pounds per case prepared for export and eggs at a rate of 12 pounds, is only an attempt to encourage importers to be receptive to Lebanese products, now that American and European apples have started to be sold in the Gulf market for \$6.48, while a case of Lebanese apples comes to these markets at a cost of almost more than \$11.

The Lebanese government has allocated the sum of 47.5 million pounds to subsidize citrus, apple and egg exports in the 1983 season.

However, the interest in regaining the Egyptian market for Lebanese products has revealed a conflict among departments over ways for getting back to this market, especially between the National Council on Foreign Economic Relations and the Ministry of Economy and Trade.

While the efforts of the minister of economy and trade, Ibrahim Hallawi, during his visit to Cairo last March, were concentrated on increasing Lebanese exports by reviving then modifying the agreement of 1965 to introduce different types of new commodities into the attached tables, which had obtained preliminary agreement from the Egyptian minister of economy, Dr Mustafa al-Sa'id, who promised to form an Egyptian committee, in exchange for the formation of a Lebanese committee by Hallawi, to study the amendment of the agreement, the chairman of the National Council on Foreign Economic Relations, Sami Marun, focussed his contacts in the visit he made to Egypt last week on reviving the commercial protocol (that is, the 1965 agreement) and proceeding to carry it out. This provoked the displeasure of the Lebanese minister of economy and the official delegation which was to visit Egypt last Friday to discuss the amendment of the agreement. This situation resulted in the postponement of the visit of the Lebanese delegation, which was to be headed by Minister Hallawi and was to include, among its members, representatives from the Ministry of Foreign and Expatriates Affairs, the National Council on Economic Relations, and the Society of Lebanese Industrialists, until next Friday, as Minister Hallawi said in an exclusive statement to AL-SAFIR.

Hallawi stressed that the delegation's visit would still take place and that the cause of the delay had been the wait for an Egyptian response on the result of the contacts Marun had made with Egyptian officials on the Lebanese-Egyptian protocol and consequently the purchase of Lebanese agricultural products.

For his part, Marun asserted to AL-SAFIR that his visit was to prepare for the visit by Minister Hallawi, although the facts state the opposite. Marun referred to the importance of carrying out the protocol concluded by the two

countries in 1965, stressing that Lebanon's interest lay in the continued execution of this protocol, without amendments to it, while the minister of economy asked the people concerned in the Society of Lebanese Industrialists to prepare the modifications that the Lebanese party would request be introduced into the agreement during the official negotiations to take place with the Egyptian party.

The conflict between the Ministry of Economy and the Economic Council has not been confined to this issue. Government sources assert that a dispute has arisen between officials in the two departments over the execution of the purchase of wheat for the Economic Council, which had previously presented a recommendation on the means for holding bids to purchase the wheat before the minister of economy was informed of that. This prompted Minister Hallawi to raise this issue with senior officials in the government, stressing that this matter was part of the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Economy, to the exclusion of others.

The same sources assert that the minister of economy had raised the issue of Marun's visit and the contacts he made with Egyptian officials with the prime minister, Shafiq al-Wazzan, and had informed him that, regardless of the visit by the Lebanese delegation, he was voicing his protest on the statements broadcast about the visit, especially since Marun's visit was aimed at negotiating over the sale of apples only, and not any other subject. However, the premier asked that preparations for the visit bearing on the amendment to and execution of the protocol be continued.

Following his his visit to Minister Hallawi in his office in the [Ministry of] Tourism, Marun then declared that his visit had been to prepare for the visit of the minister of economy, denying any dispute with the minister of economy and stressing the importance of the 1965 protocol, which contains exemptions of 25 to 100 percent for some goods.

It should be mentioned that this agreement was set out in the era of the late President Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir, who had sought to realize economic unity among Arab countries by exempting Arab goods coming into the Egyptian market. However, this agreement was amended on 17 January 1970 by President Anwar al-Sadat's government [sic], though it was not carried out, and dealings between the two countries continued to take place on the basis of the 1965 agreement.

The Actual State of Transactions

The statistics on trade transactions between Lebanon and Egypt show that from 1965 to the end of 1972, the Lebanese balance of payments realized an annual profit ranging from 1 to 13 million pounds, that is, Lebanon's exports were greater than its imports from the Republic of Egypt (Table One).

However, from 1973 to 1979, the balance of trade started to tilt in Egypt's favor, since Egypt realized a profit ranging from 4 to 36 million pounds a year during this period. This may be ascribed to a number of reasons, most importantly:

1. The Lebanese producers' orientation toward major Arab markets, which absorbed the bulk of Lebanese commodities, especially the Gulf markets (Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Kuwait), as well as Syria.
2. Egypt's acquisition of products from adjacent European and African markets, especially agricultural products, at prices below those of Lebanese products, since Tunisian and Moroccan citrus proceeded to invade these markets at fantastic prices.
3. The events in Lebanon and the Arab boycott resolutions starting in 1977, when Lebanese merchants suspended the exports of their goods to Egypt, and replaced that with markets which offered commercial facilities, at a time when the flow of Egyptian products to Lebanon, especially fresh vegetables and fruit, continued, creating a disruption in the balance of trade to Egypt's benefit.
4. The deliberate unilateral application by the Egyptian authorities of the agreement, especially in the recent period, contenting themselves by giving promises to the Lebanese authorities without actually applying them.

Proof of that is what is happening now, following the Israeli invasion of Lebanon; Lebanese imports from Egypt came to 13 million Egyptian pounds in 1982 and about 11 million in the first half of 1983, although no entry of Lebanese exports onto the Egyptian market was recorded.

However, Marun brought back an agreement in principle last week calling for the purchase of Lebanese apples for \$15 million, in exchange for which Lebanon would buy potatoes, rice and spices valued at the same amount, along with the accompanying promises that it would be possible to try to pay for the apples in hard currency. The Lebanese government is now waiting for this from the Egyptian authorities.

The 1965 Protocol

Lebanese-Egyptian economic relations are regulated by a commercial protocol that was set forth on the basis of discussions which took place in Cairo between a delegation of the Republic of Lebanon, chaired by Nadim Dimashqiyah, and a delegation representing the government of the late President Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir, chaired by Husayn Khalid Hamdi, in the period 13-20 October 1965.

This agreement stipulates the specification of the means of payment, the exemption of agricultural and animal products from customs duties and deductions on four types of Lebanese products, ranging from 25 and 33 to 66.5 percent, in addition to a stipulation related to the formation of a joint committee to study issues pending between the two countries.

Execution of the agreement has been suspended since 1979 following the resolutions on the boycott against the Egyptian regime which were adopted at the conference of Arab foreign and economy ministers in Baghdad on 31 March 1979, in response to the late president of Egypt Anwar al-Sadat's steps of

visiting occupied Jerusalem and signing the Camp David agreements with the Israeli occupation authorities.

However, these relations were restored and unilaterally resumed in 1982 in the wake of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, when Egyptian products returned to Lebanon, though they were not matched by any Lebanese product export activities. The Lebanese consulate in Cairo approved certificates of origin on invoices of Egyptian goods exported to Lebanon valued at 3,719,000 Egyptian pounds. The office of the consulate in Alexandria also approved invoices on Egyptian goods worth 10,652,000 Egyptian pounds. That is, total Egyptian imports in 1982 were around 13 million pounds, although no value was recorded for Lebanese exports to Egypt.

Recent statistics for 1983 show that the volume of Lebanese imports from Egypt to the end of 30 June 1983 came to 11,639,000 Egyptian pounds, although no Lebanese imports into Egypt were recorded, in spite of the visit the minister of economy and trade, Ibrahim Hallawi, made last March, and his acquisition of agreement from the Egyptian authorities to the execution of the commercial protocol concluded between the two countries in 1965. However, the execution has not taken place, and the voices of Lebanese producers, farmers and industrialists have continued loudly to demand that the protocol be carried out and complain that the Egyptian authorities have not confined themselves to the provisions of the protocol and consequently have imposed difficulties on Lebanese goods exported to Egypt.

In this area, one might mention that the most important Lebanese exports to the Egyptian market were concentrated, up to the suspension of the agreement, on: apples, oranges, medicines for humans and animals, outer garments, steel rods and bars, automobiles, wood furniture, oil seeds and lumber for building.

From Egypt, Lebanon imports fresh vegetables, milk, dairy products, tea, rice, silk, games, steel, dye extracts, textiles, clothing, hair and potatoes.

Air Transport

Air relations between Lebanon and Egypt are under the aegis of the air services agreement initialled on 27 February 1973, in addition to a memorandum of understanding signed by the two foreign ministries in the two countries.

Previously, on 24 March 1975, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs had delegated Lebanon's ambassador to Cairo to sign the agreement in complete form, but it has not yet been signed.

The minister of economy and trade, Ibrahim Hallawi, raised this issue in his visit to Egypt at the beginning of this year, when it was decided that the discussion of this matter would be taken up as part of the discussions of the agreement or commercial protocol as a whole.

The memorandum of understanding signed by the two countries stipulates that Egypt Air Company and the Middle East Airlines Company, the Lebanese

airlines, would run a number of flights, which would be agreed upon, and agreement was reached on that, with each to run seven flights a week. These subsequently came to more than 15 flights a week apiece.

However, the Middle East company continued to operate its flights at the rate of seven a week, even during the events in Lebanon, while Egypt Air Company suspended its flights to Beirut following al-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem on 19 November 1977.

Egypt Air Company once again resumed its flights to Beirut at the end of 1982, after a suspension that lasted about 5 years. It is now making flights to Beirut at the rate of two a week, as compared with six for Middle East Airlines Company.

Regarding cargo flights, Egypt did not agree that the Lebanese cargo company TMEA should [have flights to Egypt], since cargo activities to Egypt are confined to air transport more than any other means.

Finally, it is necessary to point to tourist relations between the two countries, since the Lebanese delegation which Minister Hallawi will head is preparing recommendations on the development of tourist relations between the two countries. These recommendations include facilities for Egyptian tourist investments in Lebanon and Lebanese investments in Egypt, especially since there is no complete tourist agreement between the two countries.

One: The Balance of Trade between Lebanon and Egypt (in millions of pounds)

Year	Imports	Exports	Balance of Trade
1970	11	12	+1
1971	13	22	+9
1972	17	30	+13
1973	28	24	-4
1974	32	--	--
1975	24	--	--
1976	40	--	--
1977	43	25	-18
1978	63	27	-36
1979	76	51	-15

TECHNICAL AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH WALES INSTITUTE

Muscat OMAN DAILY OBSERVER in English 19 Nov 83 p 7

[Text]

A COOPERATION agreement on the proposed technical training institute at Al Khuwair has been signed between the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour and the North East Wales Institute.

The agreement was signed by the Minister of Social Affairs and Labour Shaikh Mustahail bin Ahmed al Maashni on behalf of the Omani government and Dr Glyn Phillips on behalf of NEWI.

According to the terms of the three-year accord, NEWI will prepare the curriculum for the engineering courses at the proposed Institute and also draw up a list of

specifications for equipment to be used.

The NEWI is also to train a number of Omani youths in specialised short-term and long-term courses in technical and administrative fields for which the British government will bear part of the expenses. An agreement to this effect was also signed between Mr Phillips and the British Council representative Mr Christopher Housden.

The entire programme of training will be drawn up by the NEWI in close consultation with the various vocational training institutes

in Oman and the British Council in Muscat.

Meanwhile, plans for the institute itself have already been finalised and construction work is expected to start soon. Being built on a 16-hectare plot at Al Khuwair, the sprawling OR9 million project will consist of a modern complex of buildings housing the Institute itself, two residential blocks for about 200 students, eight villas for senior teaching staff, and six more residential blocks for teaching and non-teaching staff.

A mosque, four workshops, two playgrounds and a cafeteria

will complete the sprawling campus. The institute's four-year courses will be open to graduates of the vocational training centres who have completed their preparatory studies.

The institute will offer courses in mechanical, automobile, electronics and telecommunications. There will also be a short-term course for laboratory technicians.

The first batch of about 180 students are expected to join the institute in the inaugural academic year 1984-85 with the capacity gradually rising to about 480 students over the next four years.

OVERVIEW OF COUNTRY'S ARMED FORCES PRESENTED

Muscat OMAN DAILY OBSERVER in English 19 Nov 83 p 4

[Text]

1983 HAS been a year of achievement for the Sultan of Oman's Land Forces, a year of expansion and intensive training for a new and more mobile concept of operations. During the year a number of exercises were undertaken within Northern and Southern Oman Brigades. Oman has also formed a Rapid Movement Force in conjunction with other countries in the GCC and carried out successfully a joint exercise that took place during the month of October '83 in the United Arab Emirates.

It has also been a year for the introduction of new equipments. Among the weapons are included:-

1. The Steyer Assault Rifle
2. Scorpion
3. Blowpipe
4. Milan
5. 130mm D-59 Gun

Among the vehicles are included:

6. Pinzgauer
7. MAN 10 Ton

Two new Regimental Camps have been taken over at Ibri and Ibra and are occupied respectively by The Northern Frontier and The Desert Regiments.

The following units have represented Oman at International level:

International Marksmanship Unit

This unit, comprising mostly but not exclusively SAF personnel, has enjoyed considerable success at International level. This year they achieved their best ever results in the UK National Rifle Association Meeting at Biseley and won the inaugural contest for The Sultan Qaboos Cup. As uniformed ambassadors of Oman they have demonstrated our shooting prowess and gained recognition for Oman throughout the worlds shooting fraternity.

Free Fall Team

The team, all from The Oman Parachute Regiment, is divided into two sections and has taken part in competitions in Switzerland, West Germany and Cyprus. In Cyprus the team won the prize for the Combined Services Parachute Championship.

During the year a number of military tattoos have been held to show off SAF to the civilian population. These have taken place at Muthaibi, Sumail, Ibri, Nizwa and Mintrib.

Many graduates have passed through the Sultan Armed Force Training Regiment. As a result the Army as a whole has maintained its excellent operational capabilities and is always at readiness to defend Oman's sovereignty.

Air Force

1983 has been a year of steady growth and consolidation for the Sultan's Air Force. New aircraft have been acquired, operating bases have been improved and more trained Omani personnel have come into productive service.

The highlight of the year for all members of the Air Force was the review conducted by His Majesty the Sultan at SOAF Thumrait on 27th January. On arrival His Majesty was greeted by a Royal Salute. He then inspected an impressive array of various aircraft types before presenting wings to a number of officers who had recently graduated as pilots.

A number of new aircraft have been acquired during the year, among them Jaguar Fighters and C.130 Hercules Aircraft. The latter have greatly enhanced the tactical airlift capability of the transport squadron.

On the ground, new air defence radars have been commissioned and the Rapier Squadrons have been equipped to operate in all weather conditions and at night. Radar has also taken to the air, a Skyvan in the maritime reconnaissance role has proved to be a most useful aid in the policing of Omani territorial waters.

The construction of new installations and improvements of existing facilities have continued at SOAF Stations. At Seeb a new Air Terminal is nearing completion and other projects are in various stages of construction. New domestic accommodation and other facilities are planned for stations around the country. These include a sports complex at SOAF Ghallah and a Training School for air traffic and fighter controllers.

The year has seen the graduation of more Omani pilots from flying training to squadron service. We now have many qualified Omani pilots. Four officers attended courses at the Royal Air Force Air Traffic Control School at RAF Shawbury, England. All did extremely well with one being

declared the best all round student, two achieving the second place and one fourth on their respective courses. In the engineering sphere a number of young aircraft mechanics have finished their training and are now applying their new found knowledge to keeping the aircraft serviceable.

As 1983 enters its closing months the Air Force can look back on a very satisfying year which has provided the basis for yet further development. 1984 will undoubtedly prove to be as, if not more, challenging. We believe that the measures now in hand to improve our capability further will ensure that the Air Force continues to meet its responsibilities in defending Oman and in the development of the country.

The Navy

Born a scout 13 years ago, since HM Sultan Qaboos came to power, the Sultan of Oman's Navy, popularly known as SON, is the youngest by far of the fighting services. It is apt therefore, in this "Year of the Youth" to feature this young and dynamic navy whose reputation as a marine defence force is second to none in this part of the world. Equipped with the latest developments in electronic wizardry and armed with modern sophisticated weaponry, SON has now the following kind of ships:-

— The hard hitting, fast moving patrol boats, armed With Exocet surface-to-surface missiles.

— The hard hitting, fast moving patrol boats, armed with guns.

— Landing and supply ships, which in addition to their tasks of landing troops, carry building materials and MOD material and civil material to countries located at remote areas which find great difficulties in providing them with these materials either by road or by air as the cost too is too high.

Manpower and Training

SON provides a great opportunity and attraction to its officers as well as the soldiers in shouldering their great responsibilities. SON now has a well trained diving team. SON officers are now selected according to specific standards from among students who complete the general secondary education or its equivalent. The selected students are considered as potential students and after passing basic training as seamen, they are qualified and trained on leadership, and technical work. After passing courses of English language, these students are sent abroad to attend academic studies held at different colleges in the United Kingdom.

Seamen are usually selected from those who have completed primary education or who know how to read and write in Arabic. The selected persons then pass basic training courses and have practical training on board SON ships, particularly Oman Youth "Shabab Oman" training vessel. Seamen are also sent to Pakistan to have training in different nautical skills.

Naval Bases

1. **Main Naval Base:** There is the location of the main fleet body where all facilities of repair, maintenance, stores, supplies, and administration are available.

2. **Advanced Naval Bases:** Located near operation areas to provide vessels with supplies as catering, ammunition, fuel and emergency repairs.

SON has its main naval base located in Capital area and an advanced naval base, supervising and safeguarding waters of the Straits of Hormuz. Work is in progress on the new main base on the coast at Al Battina. The new base will be considered the largest, modern naval base in this part of the world.

It is designed to meet all SON requirements till the year 2000 and its work is due to be completed in 1985.

Work is also in progress on a new training centre which will be located near the new base and will be provided with all training means. The new training centre will replace the present training centre located at Sur, which is not coping with the rapid development of SON.

SON Band

The new SON Band was formed in the beginning of the current year and the band comprises seamen who have completed their basic training at Sur Training Centre and are among talented personnel who have the desire to serve in this field. The new SON Band will participate in Youth Year celebrations together with the SAF bands.

The Sultan of Oman's Navy vessels, manned by an elite representations of the young men of Oman, proudly and efficiently carry out their vital tasks every hour of every day to secure peace and prosperity, guided by the gracious directions of HM Sultan Qaboos, Supreme Commander of SAF.

Royal Guard Brigade

There was a emphasis on RGB activities during 1983 as the last year was given to increasing and advancing the Brigade Training and Operational levels for being always ready to carry on any of the responsibilities.

One of the most prominent RGB activities in the beginning of the year was the planning, preparation and execution of His Majesty the Sultan's trip to the south, passing through most of the Sultanate provinces and Districts to look after the people. At the end of the trip the RGB SP Bn carried on a live fire manoeuvre and was honoured by the presence of His Majesty the Sultan. RGB SP Bn air defence units participated in all SAF anti aircraft rocket firing exercises, and obtained excellent results.

RGB Bands participated in all the Sultanate occasions. The last one was the Al Fitr Eid celebration in Salalah which H.M.

attended, in addition to new Ambassadors presenting credentials at H.M. ceremonies. These Bands participated also in H.M.'s regardful tour in Salalah on the occasion of the glorious remembrance of 23 July. They took part also in the Band competition held in Dubai and got merit results in both mono and collective shows.

In respect of training, 10 officers from RGB attended different courses in UK and USA, two of them got promoted from Sandhurst. There are 7 officers and 19 NCOs attending courses abroad. Besides, 9 officers and 58 NCOs passed local variant courses held in SAF training depts. In addition, 41 NCOs attended specialised courses in RGB Trg Bn.

To improve the educational level in RGB 23 individuals passed Grade I, 23 passed Grade II and 23 passed Grade III in Arabic language at education division in RGB Trg Bn. In addition, 8 individuals succeeded in the elementary course and 13 in the middle course in RGB English Language Classes.

Two groups of recruits from RGB Trg Bn were graduated on 3 February 1983 and 27 August 1983 in two big ceremonies attended by a big number of military and civilian guests.

On 3rd June 1983 RGB celebrated RGB Technical School Annual Open Day for the year 1983. Many civilian and military VIPs were invited. There were several demonstrations and exhibitions of students project work.

Three officers and 159 NCOs have been promoted since 1st January 1983. RGB pers, regular commissions board was held to choose the best NCOs in the Brigade to be prepared to serve as officers in RGB.

Sports activities in RGB were not forgotten. Physical fitness classes were usually held. Competitions and championships of all kinds of sports were organised. For instance, the 1st Bn won the RGB football championship. The mounted wing par-

ticipated in several experimental competitions. One of them was the Enam Show Jumping Competition given by H.H. Sayyed Shahib Bin Taimur on 17 March, 1983.

MODED

The Ministry of Defence Engineering Division team headed by the Director of Projects, is responsible for design, planning, and carrying out Sultan's Armed Forces projects such as air base, training camps, hospitals, construction of roads and harbours.

During the current year, MOD-ED has constructed new camps at Ibri and Ibra. These camps comprise family accommodation, medical centres, playgrounds, soldiers' accommodation, offices, training grounds and maintenance and repair workshops.

The Engineering Division also carried out the construction of some important establishments for the Sultan of Oman's Navy at Musandam and other establishments for Sultan of Omans Air Force as the new Air terminal at Seeb, advanced fueling stations at Massira and new accommodation at Salalah.

In future, ED will construct important buildings for SAF, among which are a new camp for Armoured Regiment, Naval base, buildings for aircrafts, accommodation for SOAF.

ED, is also preparing a plan to qualify Omani students to serve as engineers and technicians, by sending them abroad to attend technicians, by sending them abroad to attend courses in this regard or by arranging similar courses in the Sultanate.

The Construction and Maintenance Directorate of MOD Engineers operates throughout Oman from Goat Island in the North to Surfai in The Southern Region. It is responsible to all the services for the support of basic utilities, such as water and electricity, and for the maintenance of all buildings, roads and general infrastructure. These tasks are performed by a total of 3000 personnel.

On the electrical side the department has provided 180 million K Watts of electricity. This is provided by various means ranging from large turbine power stations down to small mobile diesel generators.

During the year 1,000 million gallons of water were produced, mainly from boreholes ranging in depth from 30 to 600 metres.

The recent years have seen the undertaking by directly employed labour and plant of three major unsurfaced roads; from Birkat-al-Mauz to Saiq on the Jebel Akhdar; from Bayah to Khassab and Sham in The Musandam and from Furious to Sarfait and Dhalqut in the Southern Region. At present 600 kilometres of dirt road are maintained for the services.

The Training Centre has had a busy year, continuing to train more Omanis in English, Arabic, Mathematics and Physics, the best of them going overseas to qualify as Engineers, Quantity Surveyors or Technicians. At present 24 Omanis are on courses overseas in such countries as the UK, USA, Egypt, Bahrain and Japan.

Trade Training in Book-keeping, Typewriting, Carpentry, Masonry and Auto Mechanics has continued at a steady rate.

The future holds an ever increasing workload as new camps and facilities are constructed. Higher technical skills are being required as standards improve and environmental considerations

become of greater concern. 1984 will prove to be another very busy year.

Welfare services

The Welfare Service Unit is responsible for solving personal difficulties for servicemen and civilians serving with the Ministry of Defence in creating a suitable atmosphere for all of them devoted to the duties. This unit also looks after the families of those who were killed in action and the families of the disabled personnel.

During 1983 Joint Service Welfare body in co-operation with Oman Ladies Association visited on the occasion of Eid-Al-Umm, the families of servicemen killed in action. They presented gifts, foodstuff and monetary aid to the families. JSWO also enabled nine disabled personnel to participate in different functions arranged by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour.

In the field of housing, the SAF house loan office offered loans in the sum of RO 4,000,000/- (four million Omani Rials) to servicemen and civilians at the rate of RO 20,000/- for officers grade and RO 14,000/- for other ranks.

In the field of repair and maintenance, the loans offered to servicemen for these purposes amounted to RO 185,000/- in addition to providing with technical supervision by Engineers and technicians of the services

department.

In the field of Low Cost housing the department has handed over 38 houses at the interior, after being completed by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour, to the entitled beneficiaries. It is expected, at the start of 1985, in accordance with the Royal Decree allotting 25 per cent of the total Low Cost houses to SAF personnel, 249 houses will be handed over to entitled SAF personnel.

This department has also offered marriage dowry loans to servicemen amounting to RO 103,800/-.

SAF shops have been constructed to provide servicemen and MOD civilians and their families with foodstuff, stationery, cigarettes, electronic and electrical goods, sports goods, brief cases, suit cases, watches and clocks at low prices. The SAF shop located at MAM was provided in last July 1983 with three sections for bulk sales and in last August the new extensions were completed.

The number of SAF shops have grown to 10 branches in addition to other shops located at Ibri, Ibra. Work is in progress for new SAF shops at Salalah and Massira Island.

JSWO also provide SAF units with television and recording sets and the units have already been provided during the year 1983 with 500/- television devices and 130/- video devices.

COUNTRY'S SOCIAL WELFARE SYSTEM DESCRIBED

Muscat OMAN DAILY OBSERVER in English 19 Nov 83 p 14

[Text]

When His Majesty the Sultan outlined the frame of the social work, he said societies could not be developed unless there was proper social welfare based on scientific and technical research and relevant experience.

Guided by these inspiring words, the Ministry of Social Affairs & Labour has realized:

The extension of the social security umbrella to cover all needy families;

Social equity among the people, particularly, by providing relief for natural disasters;

Execution of programmes aimed at mother and child care as well as the preparation of Omani women to play their role through qualifying and training programmes;

Development of rural communities;

Provision of low cost houses for people with limited incomes;

Provision of other life necessities for all people;

Drafting of social legislations to ensure the protection and welfare of workers as well as organising their relationships with their employers, based on equity.

The planning and development of Omani manpower by providing work opportunities and training to raise the efficiency of workers.

During this year the Social Affairs department in the Southern Region was expanded to become the Directorate General for Social Affairs & Labour. The Housing Department was also made the Directorate General for Housing in order to cope with the developmental requirements in present and future phases.

Social work was also focused on training of social workers to raise their efficiency.

This year, the social work sections started the revision of labour and social legislation to make it consistent with present and future conditions. With the progress of development it was necessary to reconsider the Labour Law issued in 1973.

The Ministry is currently studying a new labour draft law that would include the new developments that have occurred following the introduction of light industries to the Sultanate. The new draft is in the issuing stage.

NEW LAW:

Up to now, social security work has been governed by the 1977 Social Security Law. Now, with the achievements since His Majesty came to power and with the expansion of social umbrella to cover thousands of cases new issues have surfaced necessitating improvements in the social security law to include sectors which did not exist earlier.

So the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour has begun the preparation of a new social security project. The Ministry is carrying out intensive studies for the setting up of a new national social security with the intention that social security shall represent a fundamental factor for the protection of citizens.

HOUSING DRAFT

The Ministry has also begun the preparation of a new housing draft law to cope with the persistent changes that have accompanied the all-out development throughout the country.

These were the broad outlines of the Ministry's achievements in the field of social work. Further details are also available.

Statistics show that the social security cases up to September 1983 stood at 23,975; with a monthly expenditure of RO 593,093. This year's expenditure up to October was RO 6,138,831.

For disaster relief RO 65,903 was expended during the period January-September 1983. For emergency cases the assistance rendered totalled RO 22,933 covering 1,000 people. At the same time the assistance rendered to general cases totalled RO 257,097.

During the same period, RO 28,980 was expended for leprosy cases which are handled by the Ministry under the social welfare umbrella.

RURAL COMMUNITIES

The national programme for the development of local and rural communities has made great strides in the development of human and physical resources according to plans set out for both short and long terms.

The project covered the agricultural aspect by establishing pilot farms for the control of agricultural pests and the serious approach to agricultural problems; the educational aspect by illiteracy eradication among adults; and the health aspect by providing protective and curative assistance, as

well as health education among women.

The Ministry also provided training, inside the Sultanate, for social development staff, and sent others for training, abroad, on community development.

Projects executed in the community development field include road maintenance and repair, where 24 access roads were maintained, improvement of female centres which totalled 24, along with the establishment of 19 local centres to focus social and cultural work. The local community programme also covers the provision of drinking water in villages, along with establishment of public toilets in rural areas.

The achievements of the rural community development programme, from its commencement up to the end of 1982, totalled 186 projects at a total cost of RO 243,715 of which RO 102,742 was incurred by the citizens. This represents 41.5 per cent of the total cost, but also the real willingness of the citizens to take part in the programme.

By 1983 the programme had expanded to cover areas in the southern region. Five areas have been located there along with other areas in the Interior and Sharqia (Eastern region) the programme was aimed to cover, by mid-1983, 83 villages inhabited by 23,000 people.

SOCIAL HOUSING

During the first Five Year Plan (1976-80) a total of 2,244 low cost houses were built in different areas at a total cost of RO 14,944. In addition 600 houses were constructed in Massirah island in 1978. The beneficiaries of this plan totalled 1,432.

For the second Five Year Plan (81-85), over RO 77 million were allocated. Under this 462 houses were constructed during 1982 in rural, desert and coastal areas. During 1984 about 508 new residential units are expected to be completed.

When low cost houses are constructed for the citizens, certain guidelines are followed. These include:

- ★ That such houses are aimed at rural development by providing them in line with the development plan and existing legislations.
- ★ Construction of houses follows the guidance of specialised studies and surveys, including environmental, social and architectural specifications.
- ★ Traditional, Arab and Islamic aspects are taken into consideration along with means of modern technology.
- ★ That such houses be constructed to absorb future family increases along with the provision of electricity, water and sanitary services.

VOCATIONAL TRAINING

Vocational training ranks very high in the responsibilities of the Ministry as being a basic element in the development of manpower capabilities required the economic development of the country.

The number of vocational training centres, in the academic year 1982/83 reached seven, while in 1973 there was only one such centre. These centres are located throughout the Sultanate in a way that ensures the fulfilment of local requirements. Darsait and Seeb centres serve the areas affiliated to the Capital area. Sur and Ibra centres serve a number of areas in the Eastern Region — (Sharqia). Saham and Musanna centres cover the areas in the Batina region. Salalah centre renders training services to a number of willayas in the Southern Region, and Nizwa centre serves a number of willayas in the interior.

The number of students in vocational training centres increased from 182 students in 1976/77 to 1,178 in 1982/83. The number of graduates increased from 10 in 1976/77 to 231 in 1981/82.

The number of trainees at evening sessions in the vocational training centres increased from 257 in 1977/78 to 1,031 in 1981/82 while the number of trainees in the academic year 1982/83 was about 891.

The number of Omani teaching assistants in different specialisation reached 53. Private sector staff training inside the Sultanate was 1,623 during 1982, while the number of trainees abroad was 235.

OMANI SYLLABUS

The Ministry, with the aim of developing Omani manpower, has set up genuine Omani programmes to improve the study plans in the centres, so that they can cope with the requirements of the all out development plan. The Ministry also is making the evening training programmes common to all centres, as well as rationalising the programmes of apprenticeship in all companies and establishments. Teaching methods, with training by audio-visual aids, will be developed along with establishing production units in the centres to produce some of the teaching and training requirements.

The Higher Technical Institute (HTI) at Khuwair is expected to start in 1984/85 academic year to prepare well-trained technical cadres to meet the country's needs for national manpower in various technical fields. HTI will absorb students who have completed their preparatory schooling, as well as graduates of vocational training centres. After four years they will graduate more efficient for work in any of their specialisation. These cover

general mechanics, auto mechanics, electricity, electronics, radio, TV, telecommunications and laboratory technology.

The Ministry aims to set up a unified vocational classification for different professions and handicrafts existing in the Sultanate so that vocational training efforts be in line with the training courses held for workers.

It has completed the setting up of vocational classifications for the fields of hotels, banks, transport, constructions, marine and air ports and electricity. Currently two committees are being formed for electronics and telecommunications classification. A committee for the setting up vocational classification for the petroleum industry professions will be formed soon.

LABOUR

The Directorate General for Labour Affairs is concerned primarily with providing acceptable work opportunities for the citizens. It has set up a well studied, scientific plan for the employment of Omanis. The plan gives full consideration to the charges that have occurred after oil expansion and the other mining activities.

The number of Omanis nominated for private sector jobs was 5,010 during the first half of 1983. Of these 3,163 were appointed.

The second goal of the Directorate is to ensure the existence of good relations between em-

ployers and employees, based on the rules of law, and to minimise disputes by finding the best solutions that ensure a good atmosphere at work.

The third goal is to control the implementation of Labour laws and decisions. This is maintained by the inspectorate which works for the provision of stable work opportunities and just working conditions and to increase the spirit of cooperation between the employer and employee, as well as providing social security for citizens wishing to work.

Other objectives of the Directorate include control of work injuries and to maintain safety and occupational health in the different sectors. The Directorate also studies the employment requirements for local hiring and implements, accordingly, the laws of employment for people from abroad.

Decentralisation in Labour services enables better help to be given to people in their willayas. Branch labour offices in different willayas now handle the labour activities formerly centred in Muscat or Salalah.

Another achievement of the Directorate is represented by the establishment of an information unit for each company and establishment operating in the country. This is in order to know the number of employees and the volume of assistance required for the planning and development of manpower.

PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

SOVIETS UPGRADE MILITARY PRESENCE

London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic No 1400, 2 Sep 83 p 27

[Article: "Moscow Replies to 'Bright Star' in Aden"]

[Excerpt] The president of the Republic of South Yemen, 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, expressed his concern over the American maneuvers which are being conducted in the Egyptian desert (Bright Star '83) to the Ethiopian ambassador in Aden. The two met to review the situation in the region in light of the American military maneuvers which are being conducted near their countries.

While Aden is expressing its concern over the maneuvers, the Soviet Union is quietly continuing to build a military arsenal, which worries the countries of the Arabian Peninsula, the Gulf, and East Africa. Modern Soviet weapons began to pour into South Yemen in large quantities at the end of 1980, and the Soviet Union and East Germany also provided maintenance and expertise, as well as all types of weapons. However, with the coming year, the expectations of military observers indicate that the number of Yemeni forces will probably increase to 50,000 soldiers. This naturally will include three armored brigades, as compared to one at present.

The military observers add that by the beginning of next year Soviet T-62 and T-72 tanks will replace the old T-54 and T-55 tanks, and there will be 700 tanks compared to 450 now. As for the 10 infantry divisions, they will be supplied with armored troop transports and mobile heavy artillery.

From another aspect, it is well known that South Yemen has been supplied with SCUD missiles, which are ground-to-ground missiles capable of striking North Yemen. Air defense is now concentrated on SAM-6 and SAM-7 missiles, which have taken the place of the SAM-2, as well as the weapons in 12 MIG-23 planes, in addition to MI-24 helicopters.

Sources among the military observers say that Soviet and Syrian experts have trained special airborne commando units. The sources indicate the presence of about 3,000 Soviet and East German experts. Most of these are in Aden, at the military base on Barim al-Sughra Island (which is off-limits to all but Soviets), and on the island of Suqutra. In return for this Soviet presence, about 1,500 Yemenis are being trained in the Soviet Union and in the states of Eastern Europe to work in diving and on landing craft.

7587

CSO: 4404/57

SHABWAH DEVELOPMENT PROJECT ACCOMPLISHMENTS CITED

Aden 14 UKTUBAR in Arabic 22 Sep 83 p 2

[Article by 'Ali Ba-Bakri: "Large Percentage of Shabwah Governorate Projects Completed"]

[Text] Shabwah Governorate saw progress in the completion of development projects during the first part of the year in the construction of several economic projects, both under the development plan and independent of it, and in the citizens' contributions to the completion of certain projects, backed up by the party and the government.

In an interview with a 14 UKTUBAR correspondent, Comrade Muhammad 'Ali al-Ba'si, director of the Shabwah Governorate planning unit, said that the completion rate for the governorate's projects during the first part of the year (January-March 1983) was around 23 percent of the plan for the whole year, or 92 percent of the plans for this period. An evaluation was also made of the facilities' plans, including all branches, to see if these facilities are using scientific planning methods.

He added that several projects had been completed as follows:

1. The local construction organization for the governorate:

The organization's investment plan for the first part amounted to 15,000 dinars. Actual investment was 209,000 dinars, a rate of 139.3 percent [as published; 139.3 percent of 150,000 is approximately 209,000].

2. The local land transport organization for the governorate:

During the first part of the year, the organization's fleet was to transport 5,664 tons of goods, while 8,034 tons were actually transported. Distance to be covered was projected at 186,960 km, with 275,788 km actually covered. Freight volume was projected at 2,152,320 tons/km, and was actually 3,134,520 tons/km, a rate of 146 percent. Projected fuel cargo for the first part of the year was 477,600 gallons over 59,280 km, with a 181,488,000 gallon/km freight volume. However, the organization was able to transport 322,780 [gallons] over 39,305 km with a freight volume of 124,505,688 gallon/km, for a rate of 69 percent of the plan. The reasons for this percentage were

a shortage of fuel trucks, the age of some of the trucks and the lack of spare parts for others. In general, the completion rate for the organization's projects has been 108 percent.

3. The domestic trade organization, Shabwah branch:

Purchases for the first part of the year were estimated at 1,543,044 dinars, and were actually 2,775,170 dinars, or 179.8 percent. This does not include the purchasing plan of the national trade organization for cloth and electric goods, which is separate financially and administratively.

4. Consumer cooperatives in Shabwah Governorate:

The plan for the governorate's four consumer cooperatives for the first part of the year was to make purchases in the amount of 1,323,628 dinars; 1,094,264 was the actual figure, or a rate of 79.2 percent.

Through this brief review of some of the activities in Shabwah Governorate during the first part of the year we hoped to bring to light such activities and the efforts that we hope will increase in the ensuing periods. It is clear that 1983 will be different from preceding years for the following reasons:

Scientific planning procedures which have been followed in all activities.

The expertise and abilities acquired in various fields during the planning our country began in the 1970's.

The incentives offered in the competition for facilities which are ahead in implementing their plans and the individuals who have been exemplary in carrying out their duties.

9882

CSO: 4404/87

ANTI-ILLITERACY CAMPAIGN PLANNING IN PROGRESS

Aden 14 UKTUBAR in Arabic 20 Sep 83 p 2

[Article: "Measures Necessary for Success of Comprehensive National Illiteracy Campaign"]

[Text] Great care is being paid to preparations now underway for the comprehensive national anti-illiteracy campaign which will begin in 1984 and will have the party and the government's utmost concern.

Within this framework, the necessary studies and projections have been made to ensure the success of the campaign to completely eliminate illiteracy and political ignorance in our country and to open new, broad horizons for our people in order to raise their political, economic, social and cultural levels and their positive participation in our ongoing revolution. The anti-illiteracy administration is ready to take surveys pertaining to the campaign in the governorates in September.

Comrade Hawd Husayn, head of the anti-illiteracy administration in Aden Governorate, said in an interview with the Aden News Agency that the administration had prepared a projection in this regard. The organizational section contained the idea of survey committees in the governorates and districts, and the informational section included the idea of following up on preparation for the campaign through various information media, posters and mobile broadcast stations.

He said that the popular defense committees will take on the primary responsibility for the survey, in cooperation with the Yemeni Socialist Youth Federation and other popular organizations.

Comrade Hawd said that at the Secretary General's instruction, an outline of the anti-illiteracy campaign has been drawn up and a system of adult education established so that illiteracy will be completely eliminated by the end of 1984 and a total system of adult education established.

He also said that the special party conference had emphasized continuation of the effective measures based on the consolidated plan to eliminate illiteracy, bring about political awareness of the party and the state authority and disseminate cultural information. The conference also emphasized its great interest in the development which ensues from popular education.

Therefore, a group of goals for the campaign plan was outlined, the most important being: to eliminate illiteracy among all males from 12 to 40 years old and all females from 12 to 35 years old, according to a special statistical plan, to convey basic reading and writing skills, the principles of arithmetic and all types of basic information--political, social and economic; to establish a follow-up system to provide those freed from illiteracy with broader educational skills and to build an inclusive adult education system to fulfill the requirements of the comprehensive development plans. This outline contains steps to be followed to ensure the campaign's success and to ensure that those liberated from illiteracy to not regress. Such steps are to reorganize anti-illiteracy and adult education committees on various levels; strengthen the central anti-illiteracy mechanism and branches in the governorates; recruit secondary, technical school and university students and train them to do their part in the campaign as leaders and supervisors; define the campaign duties and jurisdictions of the party and popular organizations, the informational, educational and cultural institutions and the trade and artistic federations; draw up the campaign budgets and encourage international and Arab organizations, as well as sister and friendly countries, to take part in the campaign.

These measures also include the forming of an adult education federation and the undertaking of a comprehensive survey to locate illiterates, determine the areas where they are located and draw up a map of the campaign to specify what abilities and teams are needed. There are many other important steps covering various aspects, such as holding meetings and forums, setting up anti-illiteracy offices, reviewing and refining special educational books, holding training classes for instructors preparing educational materials and other steps necessary for the success of the campaign.

Training will be provided soon for 1,129 secondary school instructors who will then train student leaders and the instructor-leaders from the consolidated schools will be provided with the expertise necessary to supervise the anti-illiteracy teams.

In all, 33,041 students and 9,720 instructors will be trained for this purpose.

Regarding current activity in Aden Governorate, Comrade Hawd said that during academic year 1982-83, 226 people out of a group of 351 had achieved basic literacy.

In the continuing group, 83 out of 116 students passed.

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CSO: 4404/87

PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

HADRAMAWT LITERACY DATA REPORTED

Aden 14 UKTUBAR in Arabic 22 Sep 83 p 2

[Article by 'Aziz al-Ta'alibi: "Education Statistics in Hadramawt Show Sizable Drop in Number of Illiterates"]

[Text] Recent statistics have shown that no more than 15 percent of the population of Hadramawt Governorate are illiterate, while more than 80 percent were illiterate before independence. Comrade Muhammad 'Ali Bashmakh, member-elect of the central committee, head of the executive office of the local people's assembly and governor of Hadramawt, reported these facts in a recent speech in al-Mukalla.

Regarding progress on the education question, Comrade Bashmakh said that the revolution had opened broad horizons so that our hard-working people could realize their hopes and ambitions of liberation, progress and well-being. Since 22 June 1969, our political and government leaders have made increased attention to the education and culture question a priority. It is not surprising that the education sector has made astonishing improvements in quantity and quality. The levels and types of schools have been increased, and for the first time, our country has university and vocational education to create skilled workers. With expanded schools, it is now possible to accept more school-aged children. Today, one-quarter of our country's inhabitants are in school. There has also been qualitative progress: school divisions are now 8 years instead of 4, and the curriculum has changed, with the addition of polytechnic studies and excellent instructor training.

There have been tangible changes in the cultural field to establish a progressive national culture, such as the efforts of the working people to establish a new system. Culture now belongs to the people, and has become an expression of their hopes and aspirations. This was clear from Comrade Bashmakh's announcement that cultural centers have been built; the circle of libraries and book and press publishers expanded; the information media developed; the creative federations, as well as artistic troupes in theater, folk dancing, singing and the creative arts emphasized; artists supported and their works promoted; antiquities and manuscripts given increasing attention, with extensive excavation currently underway, and in coordination with UNESCO, efforts are progressing to preserve the architecture of the historical city of Shibam and the antiquities in the Hadramawt valley.

PROJECTS SEEK TO IMPROVE SUPPLY SITUATION

Aden 14 UKTUBAR in Arabic 21 Sep 83 p 2

[Article: "New Projects to Better Supply Situation"]

[Text] The ministry of trade and supply is witnessing intensive activity aimed at bettering the supply situation throughout the governorates by opening shopping centers, expanding construction of modern food warehouses, drawing up plans to import various requirements of our citizens from numerous sources and striving continually to maintain supply stability.

This is what an official source in the ministry of trade and supply said in an interview with the Aden News Agency, referring to the fact that the ministry has projects that will be inaugurated soon during the celebration of the 20th anniversary of the revolution and Independence Day. One of these projects is the large two-story shopping center in al-Mu'alla, which will take some of the load off the Khormaksar and al-Mansurah centers. Five warehouses will also be built for the domestic trade company in the (Rasd) area in Abyan Governorate.

He also said that the ministry has a centralized plan, which is part of the 1981-85 development plan, to complete construction of a network of warehouses in all governorates, as well as a network of refrigeration and meat storage facilities and to expand the network of shopping centers in all governorates. To be specific, this includes beginning work on the ministry's largest project, the grain elevator in the port area of al-Mu'alla. This is part of the new Aden port project, which will be able to accomodate 60,000 tons of wheat.

He referred to the projects which the ministry will implement next year-- building a two-story shopping center in Kraytar, shopping centers in al-Shaykh 'Uthman and in al-Mukalla, a 1500-ton refrigeration facility in al-Mu'alla in addition to the existing facility and an administrative office and modern workshops for the machine and equipment organization, which will be completed at the beginning of 1984 in al-Mu'alla in order to improve vehicle and machine maintenance services and to provide all types of spare parts needed. Other projects scheduled for next year are to build warehouses for construction materials and cloth in the areas of (Kaltaks) and Kar Sa'd and build headquarters and branches of the companies and organizations in the capitals of the governorates. All of these projects will be self-financed and financed through bank loans.

Our source also said that the ministry of trade and supply is importing all the required foodstuffs, consumer goods, etc., from numerous sources, thereby avoiding capital monopolies of the market and answering the citizen's wish for a choice in the goods he buys. He said that the government is earmarking large sums to cover increased prices for foodstuffs and other essentials.

The ministry is also continually coordinating with the environmental health department to examine imported foodstuffs before they reach the marketplace, rounding out the environmental health department's efforts to continue raising the standard of health of our citizens. Efforts are underway to import canned and packaged goods which bear dates of production and expiration.

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CSO: 4404/87

EXPERTS MEET ON WATER USE ISSUES

Sanaa AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 12 Sep 83 p 6

[Article: "Directing Use of Water Resources in the Yemen Arab Republic"]

[Text] The scientific seminar on the use of water resources in the Yemen Arab Republic opened at the National Institute on Saturday, 10 September 1983. Dr Muhammad Nur-al Din al-Rifa'i, professor of irrigation, drainage, and dam engineering at Damascus University, was present. He came to our country as a participant in this scientific seminar. This session, opened in the presence of Dr Rifa'i, will be followed by others in accordance with the schedule of the seminar to be held between 10 and 15 September 1983.

Certain Arab and Yemeni engineers will participate in the seminar and give reports on water sources and guidance on their use in our country. Dr Rifa'i emphasized the importance of producing and encouraging scientific, topographical studies of Yemeni lands. He pointed out the danger of continuing to dig wells and pump water, thereby exhausting water resources underground. He also emphasized the importance of scientific studies of the fundamental hydrological and hydrogeological characteristics of water basins. He mentioned the necessity of setting up more meteorological stations and establishing water balances. He confirmed the need to use water to activate agricultural land, supported by networks (irrigated canals), in accordance with well-studied economic and technical bases, in order to assure food security in the Yemen Arab Republic.

Report of Dr Muhammad Nur-al-Din al-Rifa'i, FAO Rome adviser, Professor of Irrigation, Drainage, and Dam Engineering, University of Damascus: Yemen is an agricultural country whose economy is fundamentally dependent on agriculture and irrigation. Agriculture constitutes approximately 55 percent of the gross domestic product, and nearly 90 percent of the population are engaged in agricultural activity.

The current population of Yemen in 1983 is approximately 8.5 million. At the end of this century it is expected to reach nearly 12 million.

The area of cultivable land in the Yemen Arab Republic is close to 3.5 million hectares, of which approximately 1.5 million is actually under cultivation. Of this, 250,000 hectares are irrigated, and 1.25 million hectares receive only rainwater.

Yemen has abundant rainfall, including seasonal, tropical rains in the summer. Other rainfall comes from the Red Sea in the winter, and the Sudan depression spreads, causing heavy rainfall in the spring.

Topographical conditions in Yemen affect the distribution of rainfall in the various regions of the country. They cause heavy rainfall in the south and southwest, with a gradual diminution east and west to its lower borders.

The average annual rainfall in the Yemen Arab Republic is approximately 42 billion cubic meters. Now most of it is lost through evaporation and torrential streams flowing into the sea and adjacent areas. This rainfall is used to irrigate some 200,000 hectares from permanently flowing water and about 50,000 hectares from wells. Heavy rainfall in the southern and central highlands produce sufficient moisture for rainwater agriculture. The area of land which benefits from this is nearly 1.25 million hectares.

Water was and is a source of life in this arid of semi-arid region of the world, especially in this blessed, good land. The history of this area of the world has recorded great success in storing water in the Ma'rib Dam and organizing and directing the use of this marvelous liquid from which God made all living things.

God gave Yemen deep, fertile agricultural land containing large strata of underground fresh water, especially in the Tihama Plain, the Sanaa area, and the interior. It has come together over many long years in past centuries and has risen close to the surface, within reach of anyone who seeks it, now that modern equipment has succeeded in digging artesian wells.

People have realized that stable agriculture depends on a permanent water source which does not run dry and is not subject to a fluctuating water supply from the flow in various river beds. They are encouraging one another to dig wells, pump water from them, and cultivate the fertile, dry land in the Tihama Plain and the areas of Sanaa, Dhamar, and al-Bayda'. They have transformed barren lands into ripe gardens with fruit. They were:

"Like a spring in the desert.

It quenches thirst.

Water is stored in its depths, and

Water is borne on its surfaces."

(Origin of Poetry)

However, these citizens must realize that they are unconsciously and unknowingly exhausting a priceless natural resource which God stored in this good land as a source of wealth and blessing and as the basis of significant economic and social development. Through this wasteful pumping, they are transforming the blessing which God granted them into misfortune and calamity.

Have they heard the story of ground water in the al-Silmiyah region of Syria, for instance? For 30 years its inhabitants rushed around digging wells and pumping water, as they needed it. There was a time when they thought that the water in the underground water strata would never dry up. However, some years after the pumping began, a catastrophe occurred. The well water ran out, and the meadows, grazing land, and trees became parched. Stock-farming dried up, and the region became desolate. Its inhabitants were forced to roam the world over seeking their livelihood.

There are many examples of this in various areas of the world. The exhaustion of water supplies in underground strata of water has afflicted many water basins. It has been and continues to be a subject of concern and care on the part of those working in the field of preserving water, developing it, and guiding its use.

The Directorate General for Irrigation in the Ministry of Agriculture in Yemen hastened to call this scientific seminar in recognition of the importance and significance of this subject and in an attempt to save a valuable national resource from being exhausted and squandered. The country is in dire need of every drop of water.

The Food and Agriculture Organization is participating in the activities of this seminar. It wishes to confirm the extent of its interest in guiding the use of water resources in Yemen, and it wishes to support all measures taken in this regard.

The Water Balance in Yemen

Approximately 20 years ago, Yemen began laying sound, scientific foundations in a study of the country's natural resources, in the earth and water in particular.

Economic and social development in this country is fundamentally based on agriculture and irrigation. As is the case in most other Arab countries, water is the principal element which determines the extent of this development.

A large number of well-known engineering firms have produced studies and reports on irrigation and agricultural development projects (both animal and plant) for numerous regions in Yemen. Certain international agencies have taken part in these studies. Research stations have been built in Ta'izz, Sardud, Jamishah, Zabid, and other towns. Irrigation projects in the Tihama Plain, al-Jawf, and Sanaa and rural development projects in the southern highlands have been of great interest to these companies and agencies.

Separate reports have been made on the river beds of Mawr Sardud, Siham, Rima', and Zabid and on the river beds of the al-Jawf region--al-Jarid, Mazab, Ma'rib, and others.

What is remarkable is that these important, individual projects followed one after the other, without a prior overall plan for studying and implementing irrigation projects throughout Yemen as a whole. The overall plan includes:

- a. Determining the annual water balance for water resources and their exploitation in the country.
- b. Classifying on a general, preliminary basis the various lands of the republic.
- c. Producing a technical, economic and social assessment of the various individual projects emanating from this overall planning (in a preliminary, initial, approximate form).

The purpose would be to direct the use of limited water resources, attempt to benefit from them through irrigation of the best and most desirable land, and set priorities for the study and implementation of irrigation projects on sound technical, economic and social bases.

Certainly there is the problem of exhausting underground water strata without provisions for implementing a program of balanced supply to the underground water basins in the republic. Poor guidance on the use of this water in irrigating land without restriction and prior classification of this land and without determining a water balance to preserve the equilibrium between the rain which nature gives the country and the water used annually in irrigation projects (whether the water is underground, flowing, or standing) will have far-reaching negative, ill effects on economic and social development in the republic.

Average annual rainfall in the Yemen Arab Republic is approximately 42 billion cubic meters. However, most of this rainfall is concentrated in the southern highlands of the country. It extends to the central highlands and diminishes toward the east and west. It begins at approximately 800 millimeters annually in the Ibb region and then falls to approximately 50 millimeters in the northern highlands of the country.

These rains cause torrential streams to flow in the coastal river beds in the west, the al-Jawf and Ma'rib regions in the east, and in Wadi Bina' and Wadi Thuban in the south. During the months of April, June, and August, and occasionally in December and January, torrential streams flow in these river beds for a few days. However, the quantity is huge and reaches several thousands cubic meters per second. Then it diminishes. It begins with great speed, carrying millions of tons of solid material rolling along, suspended. It is thrown off in the flat plains at the end of these river beds.

It is not easy to establish an equation for the water balance or to estimate the value of each element in this equation.

Rainfall equals torrential streams plus the increase in the ground plus underground accumulation plus evaporation and the exuding of moisture. Each of these elements is related to a great number of variables, in particular the topography of the land, which are subject to the influence of the earth, average filtration, temperature, humidity, and wind velocity.

The value of the elements of the water balance equation change from one region of the republic to another. Their accurate definition requires many climatic and hydrological measurements which are not available at present.

However, in a very approximate, preliminary fashion, examining a number of reports written on the proposed irrigation projects in various areas of the country, one may establish the following equation for the water balance in the republic:

Rainfall = 42 billion cubic meters annually.

Coastal, eastern and southern torrential streams = $1 + 1 + 5 = 7$ billion cubic meters annually.

Filtration into the ground and underground accumulation in the Tihama Plain = 1.5 billion cubic meters annually.

Filtration into the ground and underground accumulation in the regions of central al-Hadhbah and the eastern regions of Sanaa, al-Jawf, and Ma'rib = 0.5 billion cubic meters annually.

Filtration into the ground and underground accumulation in other regions of the country = 1 billion cubic meters of water annually.

Increased moisture in agricultural land (the southern, central, and northern highlands and certain areas of Tihama) $40 \times 1,500,000$ over 100 = 6 billion cubic meters of water annually.

The average depth of moisture in irrigated agricultural land is 40 centimeters, and the area of agricultural land with abundant rain comes to approximately 1.5 million hectares annually.

The total amount of evaporation and exuding of moisture in the various lands of the republic = 42 minus $(7 + 1.5 + .5 + 1 + 6) = 26$ billion cubic meters annually.

Thus the measurement of the annual water balance in the Yemen Arab Republic is as follows:

Rainfall = torrential streams plus the increase in the earth's moisture plus underground accumulation plus evaporation and the exuding of moisture = 42 = 7 + 6 + 3 + 26. (All these numerical units are calculated in billions of cubic meters of water annually.)

Undoubtedly this approximate, preliminary measurement requires a great deal of study and examination, but in any case it does give a basic picture of the estimated dimensions of the elements of the water balance in the Yemen Arab Republic.

The given water supply is estimated at approximately 10 billion cubic meters of water annually from both torrential streams and ground water. It is possible to plan its exploitation annually to the end of the century according to the following:

Some 500 million cubic meters of water annually for drinking, industry and municipal services.

Approximately 7.5 billion cubic meters of water annually to irrigate a total of 400,000 hectares in the Tihama Plain and some 100,000 hectares in the plains of al-Jawf, Ma'rib, Sanaa, and other area of the country.

Two billion cubic meters of water annually in torrential streams flowing to adjacent lands and some loss of water into the sea amounting to 10 billion cubic meters of water annually.

Preliminary studies indicate a potential for expanding rainwater agriculture in areas totaling approximately 2 million hectares and for expanding irrigated agriculture, especially in the Tihama Plain. The total area of irrigated land in the republic could amount to approximately 550,000 to 600,000 hectares, if available water supplies were exploited on sound technical and economic bases.

Let us assume that agricultural production from rainwater agriculture per hectare equals one-fourth of production from irrigated agriculture and that the per capita share of agricultural production from irrigated lands is approximately one-tenth per hectare. This is a country whose economy is basically dependent on agriculture and irrigation. It is seeking stable food security in an acceptable manner. The Yemen Arab Republic, in light of its available water resources and cultivable land area, can meet the food requirements of approximately (500,000 + 2,000,000) over four-tenths, or 1 over 10 = 10 million persons.

Thus the best exploitation of water resources, agricultural land, and irrigation canal systems, according to ideal technical, economic bases, can stabilize food security in the Yemen Arab Republic for some 12 million persons.

Basic Requirements for Establishing the Water Balance and Directing Water Use

In order to have the capability of establishing a water balance to exploit available water resources on a sound economic and technical basis, one must take the following preliminary steps:

1. Build more meteorological stations, to include all water basins in the Yemen Arab Republic for an average of no less than one meteorological station per square kilometer of water basin.
2. Build more meteorological stations on torrential streams and river beds in order to measure the quantity of surface water produced from rainfall after every rainstorm.
3. Study the basic hydrological and hydrogeological characteristics of water basins in the Yemen Arab Republic, define the limits and areas of these water basins, especially the ground water basins, and build enough observation wells to study changes in ground water levels, ground water migration, and effects on the salt content of ground water.
4. List and classify agricultural lands, especially those which available, preliminary information suggests are both cultivable and irrigable. Draft plans classifying the lands (semi-detailed) on a scale of 1 to 25,000, and define the categories of land--first, second, and third--in accordance with the classifications of the Land Reclamation Bureau in the United States, for example.
5. Draft an initial overall plan to exploit water resources to the year 2,000, for example, for drinking, industry, and municipal services, as well as for irrigation of the best agricultural land in the country. It would specify the location of dams and canal systems, on the basis of a technical, economic, and social evaluation of the various irrigation projects in the Yemen Arab Republic.
6. Draft water legislation covering the use of available water resources to insure essential water requirements for drinking, industry, irrigation, and other municipal services, within the limits of a secure water balance.
7. Focus on the following research on water:
 - a. Develop water supplies in the various water basins of the republic.
 - b. Reduce water loss through evaporation, the exuding of moisture, and filtration from irrigation canals.
 - c. Establish sound water regulations for the main crops in irrigation projects.

d. Establish basic data to design drainage systems in order to prevent agricultural land from becoming either too saturated or too salty.

Basic elements for establishing and implementing plans and directing the exploitation of water supplies in the Yemen Arab Republic include:

1. Insuring the financing necessary to build and equip water and climate measuring stations, undertaking the study of water basins, defining and classifying agricultural lands, and insuring the requirements for conducting essential research on water.

2. Insuring the necessary number of experts, engineers, and technicians specializing in water, land, irrigation, dams, and agriculture.

3. Cooperating with international and Arab organizations and agencies concerned, in order to obtain the support necessary to conduct inquiries, studies, and research and set up programs to direct the use of water resources for various purposes in the Yemen Arab Republic.

4. Supporting and helping the Ministry of Agriculture, especially the State Directorate for Irrigation and the state institutions connected with the ministry, with a technical and administrative apparatus which is capable of meeting the tremendous responsibilities and work load confronting this ministry as it carries out the basic requirements for studying, planning, and directing the use of water resources in the Yemen Arab Republic.

In conclusion, these are the overall basic steps in studying water resources and directing their use in the Yemen Arab Republic. At this seminar, one cannot go into great detail on this important, fundamental problem. However, one can draft detailed reports about the basic requirements for establishing the water balance in the Yemen Arab Republic and prepare a preliminary, overall plan for directing the use of these resources after establishing the basic principles and steps which appeared in this study.

It is not enough to draft reports and implement regulations which prohibit people from digging wells and forbid them to pump water from them. The users of these wells will not fail to find ways and means to dig wells and pump water from them until they run dry.

The urgent need for water is increasing with time. The population is increasing, as are the problems and difficulties encountered by officials in the field of water resource use, since they have not hastened to ensure the basic requirements and prepare the essential elements to establish and implement measures and direct the use of water resources in the Yemen Arab Republic.

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7811

CSO: 4404/1 .

RESULTS OF DEFENSE MINISTER'S UK VISIT REPORTED

Cooperation in Research

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 11 Nov 83 p 9

[Text] London, November 10 (PTI): India and Britain are to co-operate in research and development of electronic systems and other highly sophisticated defence items of a similar nature.

The defence minister, Mr. R. Venkataraman, said at the conclusion of his four-day official visit to this country today that Britain had shown its willingness to co-operate with India in research and development of equipment relating to electronic countermeasures, avionics and allied spheres.

"Britain is very willing and prepared to go ahead with such co-operation. British experts are highly satisfied with the research and development facilities at Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)," he said.

Mr. Venkataraman envisaged a sharing of scientific skills and pooling of resources between the two countries in these spheres. "The projects will be of a complementary nature", he added.

Mr. Venkataraman's talks here covered a number of projects in which Britain is keen to participate. These include the manufacture of a light combat aircraft (LCA) by India and acquisition of an airborne early warning system by it.

The defence minister called on Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and described his discussions with her and the defence secretary, Mr. Michael Heseltine as very useful. "The Prime Minister was very warm and friendly," he said.

Equipment for Jaguars

Madras THE HINDU in English 12 Nov 83 p 7

[Text]

LONDON, Nov. 11. Britain has agreed to supply India the latest generation of electronic counter-measure (ECM) equipment which will update the Indian Air Force Jaguar fleet and ultimately be in-

stalled in the MIG-27 fighter aircraft to be produced indigenously next year.

An agreement to this effect, in principle, was reached at the wide-ranging talks the Defence Minister, Mr. R. Venkataraman, had with

the British Defence authorities during his visit here.

The "sky shadow" pod which contains very sophisticated electronic warfare, ECM and electronic systems management (ESM) equipment, will be fitted into the 71st Jaguar, now being assembled and manufactured at the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL). The "sky shadow" pod is now fitted into the Tornado fighters of the NATO air forces in Europe.

Self-protection system: During his talks, Mr. Venkataraman discussed a draft of the memorandum of understanding (MOU) sent by India regarding the supply of self-protection ECM/ESM system known as "Zeus," which will be fitted internally into the Jaguars and the Sea Harrier jump jets ordered for the Indian Navy.

The "sky shadow" pod is fitted on the underwing pylon of the aircraft while "Zeus" is installed internally, giving extra station for carrying bomb load.

The installation of the new ECM/ESM equipment would increase the life span of the Jaguars well beyond the present century. The Royal Air Force, which has begun an updating programme for the Jaguar, has also decided to keep the aircraft in squadron service in the 1990s.

Inertial navigation system: The Jaguars now under production at the HAL will be fitted with the Sagem inertial navigation system, the

Ferranti computer digital display map (Comed), the Ferranti laser ranger and the Smiths head-up display (HUD). The same system is being recommended for the MIG-27 fighter assembly lines for whose production are being set up at the HAL in Bangalore.

It has been decided that later on, the Jaguars India had bought from Britain in flyaway condition, would ultimately be updated.

Crash data recorder production: An agreement has also been reached with Britain for indigenous production at the HAL of the SCR-300 crash data recorder, considered the smallest in the world and its two components can be fitted into a small box weighing just 22 pounds.

The SCR-300 recorder can monitor 39 different aircraft functions including aileron movements, throttle openings, undercarriage position and autopilot engagement. There is also a cockpit voice recorder. The British and Italian Tornado aircraft are equipped with its forerunner, SCR-200. — UNI.

CSO: 4600/1277

FOUR ISSUES TO DOMINATE PARLIAMENT'S WINTER SESSION

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 10 Nov 83 p 1

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Nov. 9.—The Punjab issue, beef tallow controversy, the take over of Bombay textile mills and to some extent, Assam, will dominate Parliament's six-week winter session which begins on Tuesday.

Punjab is likely to figure in a big way on the opening day itself, when the recent proclamation of President's rule in the State, as well as three presidential Ordinances relating to the State are tabled in the two Houses. The Ordinances are: the Punjab Disturbed Areas Ordinance, the Chandigarh Disturbed Areas Ordinance (both promulgated on October 7), and the Armed Forces (Punjab and Chandigarh) Special Powers Ordinance promulgated on October 15.

Three Bills, to replace those Ordinances, are to be introduced on the opening day. When the Bills are taken up for consideration later, there will be a further discussion on Punjab.

On the beef tallow issue, several motions are understood to have been given notice of by the Opposition, and there is bound to be an explosive discussion on the basis of one of these.

ASSAM

Assam will come up for discussion when the official Bill to replace the Illegal Migrants (Determination by Tribunals) Ordinance,

promulgated on October 15, is considered.

On the Bombay textile mills' takeover, again, an official Bill is brought forward to replace the presidential Ordinance promulgated on the eve of the AICC(I) session in Bombay. Like on the other three issues, the discussion on the proposed Bill replacing the Ordinance on the Bombay mills takeover is expected to be a stormy one.

As many as 15 official Bills already pending in the Lok Sabha and five in the Rajya Sabha. Besides the 21 new Bills adjourned, six of which, being Bills replacing presidential Ordinance to be discussed and passed. The sixth Bill — in addition to the three on Punjab, one on Assam and one on the Bombay textile mills — seeks to replace the Tea (Amendment) Ordinance promulgated on October 7.

Among the 13 Bills pending in the Lok Sabha the most important unquestionably is the Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill seeking to make rape a cognizable offence. The joint committee on the Bill presented its report to the House on November 2 last year. It is expected that the Bill as reported by the committee will be considered and passed by the House during the coming session.

The Delhi Rent Control Bill, introduced in the Lok Sabha on August 1, 1980, and designed mainly for appointment of an additional rent controller, is also likely to

be taken up for discussion and passed. A set of four Bills, to facilitate eviction of those in illegal occupation of Government land or premises in and around the capital might similarly be taken up and passed during the session.

The Trade Unions (Amendment) Bill, the Payment of Gratuity (Amendment) Bill and the Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Bill are some of the important ones among the rest. Since the Lok Sabha will have only 22 days of sittings, and since the other major issues are likely to take up much of its time, it is doubtful whether any of these Bills will be taken up for consideration.

Among the new Bills proposed to be introduced, perhaps the most notable — and certainly controversial — is the Life Insurance Corporation Bill for reorganization of the LIC into five independent units. Even the introduction of the Bill in the House might be stormy.

Other business before the session includes presentation, discussion and voting on the Government's supplementary demands for grants, and a discussion on mid-term appraisal of the Sixth Plan.

There is some speculation that the coming meeting of the Commonwealth Heads of Government might also come up for discussion during the session in some form.

The session will take an eight-day break during CHOGM from November 23 to 30, and meet again on December 1. It will end on December 22.

CSO: 4600/1271

CONGRESS-I ACTIVISTS FORESEE MIDTERM ELECTIONS

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 11 Nov 83 p 1

[Text] NEW DELHI, Nov. 10--Though Mrs Gandhi rather vaguely told the north-western regional conference of Congress (I) workers at Kurukshetra yesterday that she was not thinking of a mid-term poll, party activists are inclined to think otherwise. They feel that such conferences are being organized to keep the party in readiness for election, at whatever time Mrs Gandhi may choose.

The signal that the party should begin readying itself--notwithstanding a snap poll being ordered or the election in its due course--was given at the AICC(I) conference in Bombay last month. The AICC(I) had not met for nearly three years since Mrs Gandhi's return to power. An urgency about the AICC(I) conference was noticeable. Organizational elections had not taken place for years. Also, rather unexpectedly, a plenary session of the party had been scheduled for the end of December in Calcutta after many years. The last plenary had taken place near Chandigarh in 1976.

Also born out of the Bombay AICC(I) session was the idea of holding five regional conferences of party leaders in different parts of India, all in a great hurry. The two-day Kurukshetra conference has just ended, and close on its heels comes the North-Eastern regional conference of Congress (I) workers at Gauhati.

All this is undoubtedly evidence of a sudden gearing up of the party which must certainly be for a purpose, party activists feel. Mr Rajiv Gandhi since he became a general secretary of the AICC(I) had, of course, taken a number of steps earlier to strengthen and reorganize the party. Camps had been held for large groups of Congress (I) workers, to reorient them in party policy and ideology.

Also, a "task force" of several hundred educated young men and women had been created and spread around the States. However, a fuller mobilization of the party could come about by activating the entire party, which is obviously being attempted through regional conferences and a plenary session.

As they talked to one another at the end of the formal talks at Kurukshetra, they thought there were several indications from the leadership asking them to be prepared for a call. In such matters, Mrs Gandhi always took others by surprise.

To the participants at the Kurukshetra conference, it was part of a total strategy. Granted there were arguments as to why the Congress (I) should go in for a mid-term poll when it had a solid strength of 352 in the 542-member Lok Sabha. But there was also the argument that the party may not be able to retain the same strength if the Opposition parties got together when the poll took place when due, that is, a year away.

CSO: 4600/1272

G. K. REDDY WRITES ON EFFORTS FOR TAMIL SETTLEMENT

Framework for Settlement

Madras THE HINDU in English 12 Nov 83 p 1

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Nov. 11.

The Secretary-General of the TULF, Mr. A. Amirthalingam, is returning from London on November 16 to join his party colleagues in discussions with the Prime Minister's special emissary, Mr. G. Parthasarathi, on the scope and implications of the new proposals conveyed by the Sri Lanka President, Mr. J. R. Jayewardene, for a political settlement of the Tamil problem within a unitary State.

The full details of the proposals brought by Mr. Parthasarathi have not been disclosed, but these will be discussed with the TULF leaders before their reactions are conveyed to Mr. Jayewardene when he arrives in Delhi on November 21 for the Commonwealth conference.

The Sri Lanka Minister for Rural Industrial Development and president of the Ceylon Workers Congress, Mr. S. Thondaman, who represents the immigrant Tamil community, is also expected in Delhi for parallel talks on the future of the stateless citizens of Indian origin. He is keen that any political settlement of the Tamil problem should also include an agreement on the future of these people.

Local autonomy

The powers to be devolved on the proposed regional councils will provide for a measure of local autonomy, including some voice in the maintenance of law and order, in their respective jurisdictions. The exact nature and extent of these powers will have to be worked out through negotiations after finalising the broad framework for a settlement.

The new proposals in their basic form represent in the opinion of experts a major advance on the earlier stand of Mr. Jayewardene, who was initially very reluctant to go beyond the stage of activating the district councils and investing them with some additional financial powers, but without any effective voice in their administration.

But Mr. Jayewardene has now agreed to let the 23 district councils merge themselves

into regional councils in contiguous areas of common interest within the existing eight provinces, to give the Tamil minority some degree of autonomy in the Northern and Eastern regions, if they give up the demand for a separate State. It remains to be seen whether he will be able to carry the Sinhalese majority with him in conceding legislative powers at the local level to the regional councils, either directly or through their respective provinces, along with some control over the police.

The TULF leaders would want to satisfy themselves, before dropping the idea of separation, that the new proposals offer at least the substance of self-government in one form or another in areas where the Tamils are in substantial numbers even without a fullfledged federal system. The thinking in Delhi is that they should give serious consideration to the new proposals to see how far these go in satisfying their legitimate grievances before taking a final stand on them.

The main outcome of Mr. Parthasarathi's latest visit to Sri Lanka has been the recognition of the fact by Mr. Jayewardene and his colleagues that India's offer of good offices can be useful in arriving at a lasting settlement of the Tamil problem. It was indeed a great achievement on his part to bring them round to the acceptance of it.

Despite the virulent propaganda that India has been meddling in their internal affairs, the Sri Lankan leaders are no longer averse to the idea of seeking India's help in resolving this ethnic tangle. But it is not going to be an easy task for the Indian emissary to sustain the hopes generated by his latest mission, unless he is able to carry forward his conciliatory efforts logically to the stage of substantive discussions before feelings start hardening again.

The broad framework for a settlement has been agreed upon in principle in the sense that the Sri Lanka Government is now prepared to consider reasonable proposals for devolution of powers within certain limits. But the precise details of these powers need to be worked out through painstaking diplomacy in a spirit of

mutual accommodation, which can be done only after ending the present crisis of confidence through some imaginative gestures on the part of the Sri Lanka Government.

The various stages he has envisaged for arriving at a lasting settlement leave Mr. Jayewardene enough opportunity to back out if he feels that he cannot arrive at an accord that would be equally acceptable to the Sinhalese. It is, therefore, imperative to keep up the momentum of conciliation to deny the hardliners in his camp an excuse to sabotage the effort.

One of the factors that probably contributed to the latest change in Mr. Jayewardene's attitude has been his inability to mobilise enough international support for his strong stance against the Tamil demand for fair and equitable treatment in the name of standing up to Indian pressures. He has also realised that the economy of Sri Lanka, which has been a shambles after the paralysing impact of the recent violence, cannot be restored without internal peace. And he has apparently reconciled himself to the grim reality that the island's stability can be maintained only through a lasting political settlement.

Cautious Optimism on Talks

Madras THE HINDU in English 17 Nov 83 p 1

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Nov. 16.

The talks with the Sri Lankan Tamil leaders on President J. R. Jayewardene's latest proposals for a political settlement of the island's ethnic problem begin tomorrow in an atmosphere of cautious optimism with the widely shared feeling that the dialogue is now being carried forward to the stage of substantive discussions.

The Secretary-General of the Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF), Mr. A. Amirthalingam, has returned from London, and the Sri Lanka Minister for Rural Development, Mr. S. Thondaman, and one of the other prominent Tamil leaders, Dr. Neelam Thiruchelvam, are expected from Colombo later tonight.

The TULF President, Mr. M. Sivasithamparam, the former MP from Trincomalee, Mr. R. Sampanthan, and some others will be reaching tomorrow morning by train from Madras well in time to have private consultations with Mr. Amirthalingam and, if possible, Mr. Thondaman as well, before meeting the Prime Minister's special emissary, Mr. G. Parthasarathi, to get a detailed exposition of Mr. Jayewardene proposals communicated through him.

For the time being, the Tamil Eelam Liberation Front (TELF) representatives are not being invited to participate in these discussions. But the secretary of the Front, Mr. M. K. Elavendan, who has already met Mr. Parthasarathi in Delhi last week, will be back in a few days later to be available for consultations.

Jayewardene coming on Monday: The Sri Lanka President is arriving on November 21, a day earlier than the other Commonwealth heads of Government, to discuss the Tamil problem with Mrs. Gandhi in the light of the talks Mr. Parthasarathi will be having with the Tamil leaders on the subject. He is bringing along his brother, Mr. H. W. Jayewardene, to keep the necessary contact with Mr. Parthasarathi and others, while he will be busy with the Commonwealth conference.

The reactions of the TULF leaders to the latest proposals will be communicated to Mr. Jayewardene, before he meets Mrs. Gandhi, to ascertain the necessary elucidations from him on key issues like the legislative, administrative and other powers to be vested in the proposed

regional councils and the respective provinces. They would also like to know what exactly Mr. Jayewardene means by retaining Trincomalee under the control of the Central Government, whether he means only the fort area of the adjoining territory as well to give it the character of a Centrally administered area as part of a defence zone.

India's advice to TULF: The strategy of the TULF leaders is not to reject these proposals outright as "too little and too late" as Mr. Elavendan dubbed them. The Indian advice to them would be to leave the door open for further discussions to extract some more concessions for securing at least the substance of regional autonomy in areas where the Tamils are in absolute majority or substantial numbers to be entitled to adequate constitutional safeguards for their protection.

Adequate guarantees needed: The Tamil leaders feel quite rightly that they cannot live with dignity in an atmosphere of peace and security, even with some measure of regional autonomy, unless the local authorities have full control over the police and the minority community is given proportionate representation in the armed forces. They are equally keen that there should be adequate guarantees in respect of the language question, university admission, employment opportunities, the ethnic composition of the new settlements in the command area of the Mahaweli Irrigation Project, safeguards against resettlement of Sinhalese in Tamil areas to disturb the population balance, and compensation for the rehabilitation of the victims of the recent violence.

More ideas likely: The Sri Lanka President is reported to have had private consultations with the leaders of various Sinhalese political parties, the Buddhist clergy and other interests in the island in an effort to carry the majority community with him in making some meaningful gestures to the Tamil minority for settling this tragic problem. He will probably spell out some more ideas in the course of his talks with Mrs. Gandhi and others during his stay in Delhi.

In Colombo, Mr. Jayewardene today briefed his Cabinet about the details of his discussions with Mr. Parthasarathi. (reports PTI).

He placed before the Cabinet the tentative proposals which would be discussed with Mrs. Gandhi in New Delhi.

PAPER REPORTS RAJIV SPEECH, PRESS CONFERENCE IN SRINAGAR

10 Nov Speech

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 11 Nov 83 pp 1, 7

[Text] Srinagar, Nov 10--AICC-I general secretary Rajiv Gandhi declared here today that the Central Government would certainly act to check the dangerous drift in this sensitive border state resulting from various acts of omission and commission of the National Conference government.

Mr Gandhi emphasised that the Centre could not afford to ignore its 'obligations and responsibilities' in this connection, especially in the face of the disturbing security environment in India's neighbourhood coupled with the re-emergence of anti-national forces in Jammu and Kashmir 'with the active encouragement of the State government'.

Mr Gandhi was addressing a public meeting at Iqbal Park.

Though he did not elaborate on the nature of the suggested Central intervention in Kashmir, Mr Rajiv Gandhi made it clear that 'dangerous situation sought to be created in this sensitive border state cannot be tolerated as otherwise the security of the entire country might as well be jeopardised.' He charged that separatist elements and communal forces were receiving active encouragement from the State Government. These forces were inactive and were getting isolated because Sheikh Abdullah had kept them under leash. Now Dr Farooq Abdullah was standing shoulder-to-shoulder with the very same forces and giving them all sorts of encouragement, Mr Gandhi alleged. Though he did not identify anybody his allusion was obviously towards the alliance between the Chief Minister and Mirwaiz Farooq.

Mr Gandhi cited facts and figures to refute Dr Abdullah's accusation that the Centre had been discriminating against the State in matters of financial assistance and allocation of foodgrains. Mr Gandhi counter charged that the generous Central assistance being provided to the state in both these cases was being misused and misappropriated by the State Government. He quoted figures according to which the state had received Rs 900 crores as allocation for the sixth five year plan which was three times the allocation for the fifth plan. Per capita Central assistance for J and K during this period had risen from Rs 1,000 to Rs 2,000 against the all India average of between

Rs 145 and Rs 250. The Centre had provided 1.20 lakh tonnes of foodgrains to the state during the first nine months of last year and 1.75 lakh tonnes in the corresponding period this year.

Mr Rajiv Gandhi claimed that for every one rupee spent in the State the Centre had been providing one rupee and 12 paise out of which only 20 paise was known to be reaching its desired destination.

He charged that Dr Abdullah was showing consistent unconcern towards solving the real problems of the State and its people because the Chief Minister was squandering his time on matters outside the State. As a result of this there was maladministration and growing discontent.

Mr Rajiv Gandhi declared that the Centre could not afford to ignore its obligations while a dangerous situation was being created in the State. The Centre will have to act however harsh that action might be.

Pradesh Cong-I president Mufti Mohammed Sayeed, vice president G R Kar and Mian Bashir Ahmed and leader of CLP-I Moulvi Iftikhar Hussain Ansari also addressed the meeting.

11 Nov Press Conference

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 12 Nov 83 p 4

[Text] SRINAGAR, Nov 11 — AICC-I general secretary Rajiv Gandhi today observed that the law and order situation in Jammu and Kashmir was "not at all peaceful" and that it was second only to that prevailing in Punjab.

Replying to question at a press conference here, he also accused the National Conference Government of 'subverting constitutional system'. He charged that the State Government had failed to observe even the basic norms of federal functioning envisaged by the Constitution.

Mr Rajiv Gandhi reiterated that these developments warranted immediate Central 'intervention'. He, however, declined to elaborate saying it was for the Central Government to determine the nature and extent of such an 'intervention'.

Referring to the law and order situation, Mr Rajiv Gandhi said that the State Government had been conniving at holding of secret training camps by Sikh extremists from Punjab and there was an anti-India demonstration in October during the

cricket match. He charged that the State Government lacks political will to deal with these dangerous trends. He said a belated action came only after the Centre had moved into the matter and pulled up the State administration. "This style of action has made the State Government's bonafides suspect in eyes of the people", he remarked.

Asked whether Congress-I wanted early parliamentary poll, Mr Rajiv Gandhi replied in the negative saying that they would first like to complete ongoing process of revitalising their organisation at various levels.

About the possible challenge posed to the ruling party by formation of alliance groups of Opposition parties, he remarked that they would be posing greater problems to themselves because of their mutual bickering coupled with their loss of credibility at mass level.

Asked if Congress-I would extend its legislative support to Mr Ghulam Mohammad Shah, estranged brother-in-law of Dr

Farooq in case he was able to muster required support from within the ruling National Conference, Mr Rajiv Gandhi said that this suggestion had not yet been considered and that it needed to be reviewed.

Asked whether it would not be better to seek the State Government's cooperation in remedying the situation in Kashmir rather than resorting to Central intervention, he said that the State Government had amply shown its lack of will to act on its own. Mr Rajiv Gandhi said that the Congress-I and he personally were 'not satisfied' with the performance of the National Conference Government. It had failed to deliver goods on administrative, economic and political fronts, he added. He charged that the constitutional system in the State was sought to be 'subverted' through undesirable involvement of the police and administration in partisan politics of the ruling party. In this connection, he recalled his party's allegation voiced during and after the June Assembly poll. He said that the

<p>Constitution envisaged observance of certain basic minimum norms of federal functioning but the Jammu and Kashmir Government had been found wanting even in that.</p>	<p>Asked if these developments had affected 'personal relationship' between him and Dr Abdullah, Mr Rajiv Gandhi emphasised that "there was no</p>	<p>question of any personal relationship where security and integrity of the country were involved".</p>
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National Conference Reaction

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 14 Nov 83 p 4

[Text] Srinagar, Nov. 13--AICC-I general secretary Rajiv Gandhi's recent suggestion calling for some imminent Central 'intervention' in Jammu and Kashmir has reportedly accentuated uneasiness in the ruling National Conference.

However, Mr Rajiv Gandhi was being too modest when at his press conference here on Friday last he claimed that his two-day visit to Kashmir valley had "no special political significance".

The significance of his visit was strikingly evident even in the setting and time of his tour not to speak of his meaningful observations made at a public meeting at Iqbal Park and later at a press conference.

What actually worries the National Conference leadership is that the theme of Mr Rajiv Gandhi's observations was also being consistently developed by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi on many occasions.

The burden of this contention has been that the State Government had shown its lack of will and capacity to curb separatist and communal tendencies which it had allegedly itself generated and sustained. This assumes sinister projection when viewed against backdrop of ominous security environment in India's neighbourhood.

The National Conference has refuted Congress-I allegations that it was a smokescreen to do away with an elected State Government. But the ruling party's lopsided perception was evident in its continued contention that the State Congress-I leadership had been 'misleading' the Central Government.

While one could question the validity of Mr Rajiv Gandhi's claim that the law and order situation in the State was bad enough and second only to that prevailing in Punjab, there seems to be sufficient substance in what he and Mrs Gandhi have been talking about growing activities of separatist and communal elements in Kashmir Valley.

CSO: 4600/1286

RESISTANCE LEADER RAJAVI CONDEMNS REGIME, DESCRIBES OPPOSITION MOVEMENT

Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 18 Nov 83 pp 25-27, 86

[Article by Sharif al-Shubashi: "Mas'ud Rajavi, Leader of the Mojahedin-e Khalq, Reveals the Secrets of Khomeyni's Iran"]

[Text] Mas'ud Rajavi, leader of the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization resisting Ayatollah Khomeyni's regime in Iran, who fled to Paris after escaping from his country on 29 July 1981, is a young man of no more than 35. Nonetheless, behind him lies a history filled with struggle, imprisonment and torture. He spent 8 years in the prisons of the late Shah, where, at the hands of Savak, the Shah's secret security agency, he endured the vilest forms of torture. He was sentenced to death and stayed up nights waiting for the sentence to be carried out. It was then reduced to hard labor for life as a result of severe international pressures.

When the revolution of the Iranian people triumphed, the masses brought him out of prison. He was at that time the only member of the central committee of the Mojahedin-e Khalq organization who was still alive, and he immediately assumed the leadership of the organization. During those historic days he met with Ayatollah Khomeyni, who had just returned from exile in France. However, the two men failed to reach agreement from the first moment. The differences between them were natural and were imposed by the nature of the two men and the essential contradiction between each one's notion of Islam, political practice, and the future of Iran and the entire region.

When Khomeyni decided to liquidate the "liberal" wing in the summer of 1981 and "do without" the president, Abol Hasan Bani-Sadr, Mas'ud Rajavi left by a military airplane from a military airport in Tehran under the command of three pilots who belonged to the Mojahedin-e Khalq organization, headed by Col Mo'ezzi, and Abol Hasan Bani-Sadr went with them. The airplane spirited them off to Paris.

Rajavi Is an In-law of Bani-Sadr

Rajavi lives in a suburb about 30 kilometers from Paris with a small group of aides. Iron security precautions surround the villa his brother owns alone the Oise river and all the residents of the street raise a furore over them.

Mas'ud Rajavi was married here to the daughter of Abol Hasan Bani-Sadr, with whom he is also linked by a political alliance, as he will explain in the course of this conversation.

The most important acknowledgment of the legitimacy of the Mojahedin-e Khalq was the visit the Iraqi deputy prime minister Tariq 'Aziz made to Mas'ud Rajavi's home. Following the meeting, the two men issued a statement setting out the broad points of a peace plan aimed at ending the war between Iraq and Iran.

The Meeting with Khomeyni

The noteworthy point is that while news of Khomeyni and events in Iran is filling the papers of the world to various degrees, news of the opposition does not receive an adequate echo. Few people realize the true magnitude of the political opposition and the armed opposition in Iran. I started the conversation with Mas'ud Rajavi by saying,

"Although you are here in France, the main presence of the Mojahedin-e Khalq is in Iran. Could you give us an idea of the magnitude of this presence, your movement within the country, and the authorities' way of coping with your activity?"

Rajavi settled down in his seat and, using, in the course of his conversation, some Arabic words of the Egyptian dialect that he had acquired from some of his Egyptian friends, said,

"The Mojahedin-e Khalq organization emerged in 1965. The objective in its emergence was to oppose the dictatorship of the former Shah through armed struggle and to work to establish democracy and freedom in the country. When the Shah fell, the organization entered a stage of pure political activity for a period of 2 and a half years. However, we were opposed to Khomeyni from the first moment. Khomeyni came to Iran 10 days after I was released in the wake of the violent demonstrations by the people that swept the country at that time. I met with him to discuss the future and ways of replacing the Shah's regime with a new one that would combine all the forces and currents that had participated in bringing the Shah down. In fact, we had known Khomeyni since 1970. We knew that he was a 'reactionary mullah' and his reactionary ideas made us believe that he was not a real Moslem. This meeting did not produce a concurrence of views. Just 2 weeks from our return to Iran, we organized a massive meeting in which we declared our opposition to him, and from that day Khomeyni called us 'hypocrites' rather than Mojahedin, because we refused to recognize the Islamic revolution. That is a designation Khomeyni invented to hide his real intentions.

"During the first 2 and a half years of Khomeyni's regime, he abused us more than the Shah did. He put thousands of members of the Mojahedin-e Khalq in prison, although during this period the struggle we pursued was political and nothing else. In the summer of 1980, Khomeyni accused us of being agents of the United States, and the media started calling us by the name of the American Organization of Hypocrites. In reality, he left us no choice but armed struggle. We became convinced of this in June 1981. As you know,

Khomeyni removed my name from the list of candidates to the presidential elections and crossed off the names of the members of the Mojahedin-e Khalq in the legislative elections. At that time, the popularity of the Mojahedin-e Khalq was constantly increasing, and the circulation of our newspaper, MOJAHED, came to more than half a million copies. The distribution of the organ of the Islamic Republican Party, Khomeyni's party, ranged from 20,000 to 30,000 copies although all means of publicity were made available to it. At that time Khomeyni felt that we represented a real threat to him.

"In the course of the massive meeting the Mojahedin-e Khalq organized on 20 June 1981, Khomeyni ordered his men to fire on the people who had assembled. Many people were martyred and thousands were arrested. The day after that event, Khomeyni dismissed the president, Abol Hasan Bani-Sadr.

The Resistance Which Has Been Imposed on Us

"You ask me about our activity domestically. I can say that the resistance was imposed on us 2 years ago. In the past 2 years no less than 30,000 Iranians have been executed, and no less than 100,000 people opposed to the regime have been arrested. We have documents which confirm this, and we have lists of names of people who have been executed."

Mas'ud Rajavi brought out a pamphlet from the files in front of him which contained the names of about 8,000 persons who had been executed or killed in the course of clashes with the police. He said that that was the latest list to have reached him from Iran.

He went on to say:

"There are more than 500 official or unofficial prisons in which there are more than 100,000 political prisoners. It is worth pointing out that more than 90 percent of the martyrs who died during this period belonged to the Mojahedin-e Khalq organization. Ours is the only organization that is resisting throughout the whole country, in the north and in Tehran, in the big cities and in the mountains of Kordestan.

"In the course of 2 years of civil war, the tally of the bloodshed confirms that 50 people are being executed every day. This means, by a simple calculation, that about every half hour an Iranian citizen is being executed and two citizens are being herded into prison." Rajavi was silent a moment, then added:

"When we decided to begin the armed struggle, the organization decided that I should go to Paris to form an official political alternative to the existing regime in Iran and work to bring the voice of the opposition in Iran before the whole world. I would like to say, here, that there is an essential difference between the representative of the Mojahedin-e Khalq, namely me, and the other Iranian political figures living in exile. I am here representing a living vital resistance covering the entire country. Our men are ready always in every place to sacrifice their lives to defend our principles and ideals. In the course of the past 2 years, our men have managed to seize more than 6,000 of Khomeyni's agents who had directly or

indirectly caused the death or torture of our men, including some prominent figures in Khomeyni's regime. I can say that 60 or 70 percent of the ruling regime around Khomeyni has died at the hands of the Mojahedin-e Khalq."

We Are Now the Victorious Party

I asked him, "Can you give us a few examples of that?" He said, "There are seven who bear the title of ayatollah who represented Khomeyni in the most important provinces of Iran, and six of them have actually been killed by suicide operations which our men carried out. If we compare the attacks we exchange with Khomeyni's regime, we can say that we are now the victorious party, because, of our leaders, only two members of the central organization of the organization have been killed. We consider Khomeyni to be an enemy of the whole Islamic nation, not just an enemy of the people of Iran."

I paused at this point. Since casting aspersions of apostasy and enmity toward Islam and the Islamic nation has become a commonplace thing and a sword hanging over the necks of the faithful, I thought it better not to let this accusation pass in this manner, without explanation, regardless of one's political position on the Khomeyni regime, and asked him, "On what is this sort of judgment founded?"

Rajavi looked at me as if he had not expected a question, then said,

"Islam is the religion of justice and mercy. It is the religion of truth and freedom, not the religion of coercion. However, Khomeyni is throwing these sacred values to the wind. Pregnant women are being executed. We have their names and letters which some of them wrote before being executed. In addition, children of 11 and 12 are being killed without mercy, deliberately, in skirmishes between the security personnel and the people in the resistance. These are the values and principles which Khomeyni wants to impose on the entire Islamic world.

"This is the picture of Islam which he shows to the outside world."

How Is the Regime Surviving, Then?

I asked,

"How do you explain, then, that this system, which is facing all these problems domestically, in addition to the problem of ethnic groups which are trying to assert their identity, then is facing the problems of the war with Iraq externally:

"How do you explain that this regime still exists, in spite of all the predictions which have been made that it would collapse?"

[Answer] There are special facts regarding our world which are concealed from Western journalists and observers, but which it is in the capacity of us Orientals to understand.

Everything that Western writers and analysts explain as strong points for Khomeyni's regime are in reality points of weakness, and elements of the destruction which will finish it off.

Let us take as an example the continuation of the war with Iraq. Some people say that the continued prosecution of the war over a period of more than 3 years is proof of the strength of the regime in power in Tehran.

However, the truth is totally the opposite of this. The fact is that this war has become a cover for the civil war which is grinding on between the regime and its opponents in the major cities and the provinces.

He fell silent a moment, then went on to say,

"How can you explain Khomeyni's absolute rejection of all attempts being made to bring about peace? The existing regime in Iran is facing profound economic, social and political problems. Logic maintains that the war ought to end, in order that attention may be devoted to these problems. However, Khomeyni closes the door to every attempt from every side, including the international community as represented by the United Nations. This war, as I have said, is a cover for the civil war and an excuse to justify repression and chaos internally. There now is an organized, integrated network of resistance covering the whole country. In addition, the war with Iraq is an ideal opportunity to get rid of the best patriotic personnel, by sending them to the battlefield.

"We are firmly convinced that the end of this war would mean the end of Khomeyni's regime. He himself realizes that if he accepts peace, he will fall in a short time."

The Forgotten War -- What about It?

I seized the talk about the war between Iran and Iraq as an opportunity to learn more details about the fighting. The media here often call the war "the forgotten war" and no one talks of the extent of the human and material losses that have befallen both sides.

Mas'ud Rajavi nodded his long head, then said,

"The number of victims of the war in the past 3 years comes to close to 400,000 killed; more than half a million have been wounded and crippled because of the war, and the material losses have come to about \$200 billion. This all applies to the Iranian side alone. Whole cities have been destroyed, like Abadan and Khorramshahr, for example. War reports [sic] according to official reports in Tehran come to 35 to 40 percent of the government's budget. The war is absorbing about \$15 billion a year, \$2.5 to 3 billion of which are allotted to the purchase of arms. Khomeyni's regime, according to accurate calculations which we have made, is spending 1 billion tomans (\$1 equals 8 tomans) a day on two fronts, the front of the war abroad and the front of the resistance domestically. This is the answer to your question. Khomeyni's regime has lasted so long because of two main factors: the war abroad and the repression domestically. Were it not for the oil revenues, the Iranian citizen would not be getting his daily food."

Activity Domestically

I said,

"This is the general picture of the situation according to the information that is available to you. What lessons, however, do you draw from the existing situation, and what is the analysis on whose basis your internal activity and action are founded?"

Rajavi replied,

"There are three main conclusions which can be drawn from our analysis of the current situation in Iran.

"First, when Khomeyni returned to Iran, in the midst of the overwhelming revolution of the people, he enjoyed overwhelming support. He enjoyed revolutionary legitimacy, religious legitimacy and political legitimacy. We could say that since the century Islam first emerged, no leader in the Islamic world has enjoyed such comprehensive legitimacy. The strange contradiction is that no revolutionary leader has happened to degenerate in his life the way Khomeyni has. He could have ruled for half a century without any internal problems. The Shah ruled the country for 37 years. However, Khomeyni's regime has now lost its legitimacy because the people have rejected it, because it has betrayed the hopes of the people, who sacrificed much for the sake of the revolution. I can say that the blood of our martyrs has caused Khomeyni's regime to lose its legitimacy.

"Second, this regime no longer enjoys stability. It might appear on the surface that it has the capacity to survive, and consequently that there is stability, but the truth is totally the opposite of this.

"Third, we have had a political and social presence among the Iranian masses since the beginning of the revolution. In spite of the fraud in the elections, I obtained the votes of one quarter of the population of Tehran, before my name was removed from the legislative elections in March 1980. Khomeyni sensed our growing strength and announced before everyone in summer 1980: 'My enemy is not in the north and not in the west, it is not the Marxists or the proponents of partition on the basis of ethnic groups; rather, my enemy is the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization.' Faced with the repression of Khomeyni's regime, we had to resort to armed struggle. I assumed the chairmanship of the organization, since I was the only member of the previous central committee who was still alive. I would like to say that the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization is the only one that has stood up to the blows from Khomeyni's regime. All other organizations have either been totally smashed or have split up within themselves at least once. Today, no one can ignore our presence. In no case can the future of our country be formulated without us. We have a role which we have earned through our blood.

"They claimed, after my wife and the person in charge of the organization internally were killed, Khomeyni's regime claimed that it had eliminated 90 percent of the members of the organization, but our activity domestically proves that this claim is just idle talk."

It appeared that I was getting ahead of things by asking him, "What about the front which you have established?"

He raised his hand and pointed out that he had not completed his statement yet. He said, "This is the fourth conclusion we have come up with in our analysis of the situation, the presence of a political framework for the resistance, to prepare for the post-Khomeyni period. We have established the National Resistance Front. I have assumed the chairmanship of this council, which brings together various parties and political figures. There is the Kordestan Democratic Party, which is carrying out armed struggle in the area of Kordestan. There is an alliance between us and Mr Abol Hosan Bani-Sadr, the former president. There is an agreement between us over the future. When Khomeyni's regime falls, there will be a transitional period for a maximum of 6 months, in which Bani-Sadr will assume the presidency and I will be prime minister, preparatory to free democratic elections.

"We are receiving letters of support from numerous parties in the Arab world and Europe. There also are dozens of letters that reach us from prominent political figures expressing their support for us and their belief that we are the only alternative to Khomeyni. I can say that we have the decisive majority in the country.

"Some people have imagined that the communist Tudeh Party is the viable alternative to Khomeyni, then it has been said that the Shah's son is an alternative and that he could return to govern the country after the fall of Khomeyni."

I told him, "I saw him on French television stating that he would establish a democratic constitutional monarchy and that the people in opposition to Khomeyni and those who were angry with the regime supported his return."

He said, "I believe that that is a joke. Had it been possible for the son of King Faruq to go back and rule Egypt now, it would be possible for the son of the Shah to go back and rule Iran."

What Is the Alternative to Khomeyni's Thinking?

I said,

"Khomeyni has brought onto the stage a specific notion of Islam and its comprehensive forms of government and life. Whatever our view of that might be, what I would like to know is the alternative platform that you present, since you have said that the Mojahedin-e Khalq are the only alternative to Khomeyni's regime now. I would also like to know what forces you will rely on when you return to Iran and take power, if that happens; are they the working forces of all classes or the influential bazaar merchants, or are there other forces?"

He replied,

"There are two different, indeed contradictory, notions of Islam in Iran. There is an Islam, or a special notion of Islam, which Khomeyni presents;

that is a reactionary notion of dogmatic Islam. It interferes in every aspect of people's lives, large and small, and imposes things on them that they do not want. It is a notion which does not respect or accept any different ideas or religions. It is a notion of vindictiveness which does not belong to this century. Rather, it is a notion that could have prevailed in the middle ages, and it is the enemy of science, civilization, peace and freedom. These words are not just slogans.

"You know that Khomeyni has shut down the universities, and that there is no longer any education. He has also shut down the theaters and movie houses, and there is no longer any art in Iran.

"As regards peace and freedom, Khomeyni's conception of both is well known to the whole world.

"On the other hand, there is the Mojahedin's notion of Islam. It is a notion which places science, civilization, freedom and peace in an exalted rank.

"Khomeyni's notion of Islam is a terrorist one. He says that he wants to establish the foundations of an Islamic republic in Iraq. Since the beginning we have been against the notion of exporting the Islamic revolution: 'There is no coercion in religion; maturity has been made distinct from temptation.' The Islamic religion prohibits the wrongful killing of human beings.

"We respect democracy. The people must determine their destiny by themselves. We will undertake, when we return, as I pointed out, to hold free elections in the country, as is clear in our program.

"We, as stated in our program, approve of individual ownership and individual investment, and believe in peace and good neighborliness, not the export of revolution, unrest and terror.

"Khomeyni says 'I am the enemy of the West,' but we say that we do not reject the West in its entirety and do not reject Western technology, art and culture, or consider it the work of satan.

"We must not isolate ourselves from the world, but we must stress that we reject colonialism and will be nonaligned."

[Question] The war, domestically and abroad, has drained the country to a large degree. Do you have a clear picture of what is going on on the domestic stage?

[Answer] Yes, and the first task for the person who takes power in Iran will be to rebuild the country.

I will give you some figures which will establish the terrible volume of losses Iran has sustained.

The volume of imports now comes to \$14 billion -- 5 billion for food. By comparison, when the Shah fled food imports came to \$2.2 billion.

The ratio of imports to exports, excluding oil, is 50 to one.

Ninety percent of the budget comes from oil, without which the Iranians would not have food.

Seventy percent of the budget is allocated to the civil war and the external war. There are about 20 secret police organizations and offices that are in charge of repression.

Reconciling Socialism and Islam

I asked him,

"Allow me to ask you a second theoretical question: how do you reconcile socialism and Islam?"

[Answer] I do not agree with this formulation. We are not trying to reconcile Islam and socialism. Khomeyni and the Shah tried to attach this formulation to our organization. It was their goal to isolate us from the masses. The people of Iran believe in the Islamic religion and they consist of Shiites for the most part. I would like to say that the revolution in Iran was associated with Khomeyni's name, but that was not the only motive force behind the revolution. There were people who cried out, in the days of the revolution, 'Khomeyni, the Mojahedin and Shari'ati' (Ali Shari'ati, one of the distinguished men of Islamic jurisprudence, who died before the revolution broke out).

Everyone knows that we are real Moslems and that we are closely attached to the Iranian people, because we belong to its various social classes. We have a reserve of trust and respect among the people, and therefore Khomeyni wants to make us lose the reserve.

The Shah was the last one previously to attack Communism from the premise of Islam. Does anyone believe that the Shah was concerned to advance the call of Islam? The same with Khomeyni; he traffics in religion and accuses us of Marxism, in order to pull out our roots from the heart of the Iranian people. That is political fraud.

If people believe that this is true of us, the situation will end, as far as our organization goes.

We believe in true Islam. However, we do not compel anyone to follow our point of view. We reject the logic of coercion, and indeed ask for free elections and for a People's Assembly which will represent all currents and trends in an honest, realistic manner. Our notion of Islam is a dynamic one. We are living in this era.

I would like to say that since the establishment of the Mojahedin-e Khalq we have not been in agreement with any of the extremist Islamic groups which have been and still are active in the area.

[Question] Is Khomeyni in agreement with them?

[Answer] When he was in the opposition, he was totally in agreement with them. Now he uses them as instruments for exporting revolution as he understands it. He says that anyone opposing him opposes Islam and opposes God's will.

This in our opinion is putting oneself on a par with God.

We consider that Islam is an ideology, that is, a system of thought. It is a scientific, progressive ideology. It bears the message of progress, civilization, science, freedom, and brotherhood among all humans.

Khomeyni and Stability in the Region

I asked,

"There are forces inside and outside the area whose interests coincide with the existing regime in Iran."

Rajavi interrupted me earnestly:

"We are confident that in the long run Khomeyni's regime will not be accepted by the West or the East, or the countries in the region themselves. The reason is that he is not living in this century. The Shah, in spite of his problems, was.

"Khomeyni is a source of chaos and disruption. He is one of the most important factors of instability in the region.

"You ask me who wants him now. I answer you, everyone who is anxious to amass oil wealth.

"Also arms merchants. In addition, people who do not want the area to live in peace and stability. You yourself must figure out who they are.

"Domestically, Khomeyni enjoyed the support of more than 90 percent of the Iranians at the beginning, but that support has evaporated bit by bit, as I have explained. This incident will suffice to give proof of that: last December, elections were held in Iran to choose the Council of Experts, whose task in turn was to choose an Islamic jurist to succeed Khomeyni. The proportion of the people who took part in those elections was just 7 percent, no more. These people took part out of fear of repression from security officials, not out of conviction in the feasibility of the elections. More important than that was the position of the mullahs: there are 150,000 mullahs in Iran, and only 150, that is, one per thousand, ran as candidates for membership in this council. From this we can deduce that the regime no longer enjoys the support of the religious figures themselves and the majority of the mullahs.

"The regime now is basically founded on Khomeyni's committees and the revolutionary guards. This is the military base which helps it to survive.

"The other social forces, in the form of workers, government officials and bazaar merchants, are against him.

"This constant pressure from these antagonistic forces must inevitably generate an explosion.

"You say that Khomeyni still exists. This is true, but it does not mean that there is stability. The Shah, for his part, existed. The Western press had asserted that he was totally in control of the situation and that there would be nothing to worry about from any group or revolution of the people, as far as he was concerned."

[Question] I remember here that I saw the former president of the United States, Jimmy Carter, on television, raising his glass to toast the Shah of Iran, stating, "I salute Iran, the oasis of security and stability in the region." That was in the course of a visit Carter made to Iran a year before the Shah fled his angry people's revolution.

Rajavi nodded his head with a smile when I related this incident to him, then said,

"I can summarize the situation for you in two words: Khomeyni's regime is now at a dead end. He is imposing a war on his people which is not in the interests of any group among them. Khomeyni cannot gain a decisive military victory over Iraq. In addition, he will not accept any just peace for ending the war at any price, unless he is compelled to do so.

Israel, Iran and the Arms Deal

I told him,

"I remember that more than a year ago you disclosed instances where Iran was purchasing arms from Israel, and you gave the newspaper LIBERATION documents as proof of such transactions. Do you have anything new on this?"

He held up his hand and said,

"The matter is no longer secret at all. The former Israeli minister of defense, Ariel Sharon, was recently on a visit to Paris, and he stated to all the French media that Israel was selling arms to Iran, and in exchange was buying oil from it. That leads me to say that Sharon's tanks invade Lebanon last year thanks to the oil of the Iranian regime.

"Khomeyni's regime brags about defending the rights of the Palestinian people and declares Jerusalem Day every year. However, I do not believe that the best way to promote that is to buy arms from Israel and sell it oil."

[Question] On the subject of Lebanon, one of the accused persons in the case of the armed communist organization whose members were arrested about 2 months ago in Egypt stated that he had a connection with the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization in Lebanon.

He interrupted me by stating,

"I read a summary of this statement published by the French press. I was greatly amazed by this sort of statement. We do not now have any Mojahedin-e Khalq members in Lebanon. There are Iranians in all Arab countries who sympathize with us although they are not organizationally affiliated with us. There are letters reaching us from Iranians resident in Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, Tunisia, Lebanon and so forth from the Arab countries asking us for the organization's publications.

"It is true that we had relations and contacts with our Palestinian brothers in Lebanon when they were there, but our presence there came to an end with the resumption of the fighting.

"We are hearing about this armed communist organization for the first time, and I can declare to you officially that there is no connection of any kind between us and that organization."

I prepared to leave the house, the mansion in which Mas'ud Rajavi lives.

The man told me, as he shook my hand,

"Khomeyni's regime is trying to export reaction and is sending terrorist teams to the Arab world and Europe. What has happened in Iran must be a lesson to the whole region and the lessons must be absorbed so that what happened with us will not be repeated in any other country. The reactionary, bloody conception of Islam may become a danger looming over the whole region, if it does not become aware of this danger and stand up to it by the proper ways and means."

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CSO: 4604/6

OFFICIAL CRITICIZES REACTION TO IRAQI CHEMICAL WEAPONS USE

LD191935 Tehran Domestic Service /n Persian 1630 GMT 19 Nov 83

[Text] The undersecretary in charge of international affairs at our country's Ministry of Foreign Affairs referred in an interview to the weak and grateful reaction of political sources of the world to the crimes committed by the Zionist regime of Iraq in using chemical bombs, bombing residential districts and missile attacks on Iranian towns. He said: These reactions will encourage the regime ruling Iraq to continue such actions and to commit even greater war crimes. Therefore the Islamic Republic of Iran condemns such responses, which will result in war crimes, bombing towns and missile attacks on residential areas becoming ordinary events in a short period of time. Saddam's recent note to the United Nations indicating that his attacks on residential areas in Iran are legitimate, and the weak response by world political sources to this note are considered implicit approval and a declaration of animosity toward the Muslim and revolutionary people of our country.

Criticizing the United Nations for its failure to follow up the report sent by the UN technical delegation regarding the destruction of Iranian towns, he said: The United Nations stopped this report because it included hints of the war crimes committed by the Iraqi regime. He added: The Iraqi regime uses chemical substances against residential districts of Iran in order to create fear, intimidate the people and weaken the morals of the forces of Islam. Commenting on the length of time since the Iraqi regime began using chemical substances against residential districts in Iran, the under secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said: Chemical and poisonous substances were first used against the civilians of the hero-nurturing town of Hoveyze 3 years ago, and this practice has continued sporadically. However, since a few months ago and because of the valuable results of the Val-Fajr operations, the use of chemicals was intensified to the extent that in the month of Mordad [21 July - 22 August] during the Val-Fajr III operations in the Piranshah region seven chemical bombs with mustard and arsenic combinations were used, which inflicted casualties on the Muslim people of this region. Among the booty taken during the Islamic combatants' recent victories there is a quantity of chemical equipment which can be presented to international officials if necessary.

Commenting on the reaction of the mass media to the weak stance of the political and international sources toward Saddam's war crimes, the Foreign

Ministry under secretary said: What is more disgraceful than not following up the report of the UN delegation on Saddam's war crimes is the world mass media's indifference in reflecting the news about Saddam's criminal acts and trying to suppress the cruelty against the people of Iran. Only some news agencies have mentioned these crimes in brief and even they have treated them lightly and failed to give these crimes extensive publicity.

CSO: 4640/51

IRAN CLANDESTINE ON NAZIH'S VISIT TO TURKEY

GF271740 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian 1500 GMT 27 Nov 83

[Excerpts] According to our correspondent in Turkey, following the publication of an interview by Hasan Nazih in the magazine (?NIMI DUSHENJEH) published in Istanbul, a group of Iranians living in Turkey invited Nazih to go to that country. He arrived in Istanbul on 13 November. During his 9 days in Turkey, the former head of the bar association and the chairman of the Iranian National Oil Company, Hasan Nazih, met a number of officers, students, merchants, and representatives of some of the Iranian political organizations and a number of leaders of Iranian Kordestan and discussed the situation in the Islamic Republic and the future of Iran.

In his report, our correspondent adds that Nazih also went to Ankara and met a number of the representatives of the Turkish parliament who have recently been elected in addition to a number of Turkish political, economic, and judicial leaders. According to our correspondent, these individuals will probably be in charge of important positions in the future Turkish Government. Hasan Nazih also prepared the grounds for the establishment of the uprising base for the Front for National Sovereignty of Iran to liberate Iran. It was decided to form the first base in Azarbayjan. During the trip Azarbayjani compatriots announced their readiness to join this base.

CSO: 4640/52

IRAN

IRAN CLANDESTINE DISCUSSES PROPAGANDA EFFORTS

GF070802 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian 1330 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Text] It has been reported in the UAE that a mercenary journalist known as Khalid Muhammad Ahmad, who was the editor of the dissolved AL-ITTIHAD newspaper, has been receiving money and bribes from the Islamic Republic to support the position of the mullahs in the UAE. Khalid Muhammad Ahmad informed the Islamic Republic that he would be prepared to publish articles on behalf of the Islamic Republic providing he receives money. Thus he would support Khomeyni's Islam which is not supported by any reputable organization or source in the whole world.

The UAE Government, immediately after the discovery of the plot, closed down AL-ITTIHAD. Recently, Mullah Seyyed 'ali Khamene'i asked the propaganda organizations of the regime to make more investments in propaganda on behalf of the Islamic Republic. After this order the government of the Islamic Republic decided to use its middle men to propose a deal to a number of foreign newspapers and journals for favorable articles in exchange for cash. The reputable magazine JEUNE AFRIQUE published a multipage article after receiving the money but each page stated that the article was published following payment for the same by the government of the Islamic Republic. In other words, it was billed as a report-advertisement.

The regime of Ruhollah Khomeyni has been disgraced in the world in all economic, social and political aspects.

Now the propaganda machinery of the regime, the Ministry of Islamic Guidance, has fanned the level of the disgrace by its actions.

CSO: 4640/56

IRAN

IRAN CLANDESTINE REPORTS INVASION PLANS

GF280800 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian 1500 GMT 27 Nov 83

[Text] The commando forces of France in the Indian Ocean have defined the 9th tactical fighter air base of the Iranian Air Force in Bandar 'Abbas as the first Iranian military target in the Persian Gulf. According to a secret report from (?Sido) military base belonging to the United States and situated in the Sea of Oman, the radar of U.S. and French naval forces are currently keeping the Iranian base under observation. In addition to the two U.S. and French aircraft carriers currently in the Indian Ocean, the air units of the (?Sido) base are now ready for an immediate attack against Iranian Air Forces bases in Bushehr and Bandar 'Abbas.

The same report indicates that the base in Bandar 'Abbas will be the first military target in Iran and the French commando forces will attack it first. If necessary, U.S. military units stationed in U.S. bases in the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman region will also enter the field. In addition, the flying AWACS radar planes belonging to Saudi Arabia are monitoring the flight of Iranian fighter bombers from Iranian bases in the northern Persian Gulf region.

The Free Voice of Iran is the sole nationalist Iranian radio in possession of this report. According to this report fighters stationed in U.S. ground bases in the region and U.S. and French bombers stationed and on alert on the aircraft carriers of the two countries in the region are able to attack all Iranian military targets in the Persian Gulf without the Iranian air defense and radar units being able to put up a defense.

The secret document which forms the source of this report has not stated the date for the attack by the French commando forces against the Iranian fighter-tactical air base in Bandar 'Abbas. However, the code words "Rapid Deployment Over the Strait of Hormuz" shows that the joint French-American operation against the Iranian military targets in the Persian Gulf will be put into effect immediately if a crisis situation arises in the strait.

As our esteemed listeners know, Ayatollah Khomeyni and the agents of his regime have threatened the world with the closure of the straits. Should Tehran regime put this threat into action not only will the Western world and the entire Persian Gulf region be engulfed in chaos, there will also be a great calamity in the Iranian Army. The damage caused by this calamity will encompass Iranian economic sources and seriously endanger the lives of those living on the Iranian side of the Persian Gulf waters.

CSO: 4640/53

IRAN CLANDESTINE ON HUNT FOR IRANIAN CHILDREN

GF060832 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian 1330 GMT 5 Dec 83

[Text] Against the widespread complaints of the heroic people of Esfahan on the warmongering policies of the mullahs, the hunt for young children continues in the city. The Islamic Republican regime has resorted to new tricks in Esfahan to forcibly send students to the war fronts.

According to our report, the cronies of the regime in Esfahan have recently started sending a special form to the families of the students which must be signed in order to show that the dispatch of the students to the fronts are with the consent of the parents. The form states that the students are to stay at the fronts for only 23 days. However, the majority of students from Esfahan who have been sent to the war fronts and the battle zones for service behind the frontlines have never returned home. The statistics show that one high school in Esfahan called Sa'eb, has alone had 84 victims at the fronts.

Karbaschi, the governor general of Esfahan, recently stressed that Esfahan has so far given the largest number of martyrs in the war and that during the course of the Val-Fajr IV operations, the majority of the forces were Esfahanis.

CSO: 4640/55

PAKISTANI PRESIDENT'S AIMS, POLICY VIEWED

LD241107 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0510 GMT 24 Nov 83

[Text] Kabul, 23 November, BAKHTAR—A political observer of BIA writes: After 9 week confrontation with its people the regime of General Ziaul Haq in Pakistan is faced with a political cul-de-sac and is thinking now of making a rather more dangerous adventure east of Pakistan's borders.

Ziaul strives to depict India as being allegedly involved in the internal problems of Afghanistan in order that he could thus distract the public opinion of Pakistan from the real source of danger to the peace and security of the region and Pakistan which emanates from the existence of his regime itself and thus prolong its rule.

Ziaul Haq not only reproaches India in words but there are [as received] news that military contingents are being despatched from Sind towards Rajestan the place where armed clashes have taken place three times in the past.

Behind the scenario of all plots and conspiracies are the American strategists whose work consists in the main in reinforcing the aggressive capabilities of dictatorial regimes.

Replying to a BBC correspondent as to whence the danger arises, Mrs Indira Gandhi explicitly stated that the flooding of sophisticated and modern American weapons to Islamabad in alarming proportions constitutes a great source of danger to the peace of region. "Only very simple folks may think that India is big and Pakistan is small and therefore Pakistan would not use these weapons against India."

Everybody knows that whenever the military dictators of Pakistan have found themselves to their own reckoning to be stronger, they have bounced down upon their neighbors at the behest of their American masters.

This time political unrest and the increasing anti-dictatorial popular anger has made them madder than ever, while the delivery of F-16 fighter bombers and Harpoons, anti-ship missiles, have made them more intoxicated than before.

It must be recalled that the military authorities of Pakistan did not wait even longer than a week after the semi-circular trip of Weinberger around India,

that is, from China to Sri Lanka and from Sri Lanka to Pakistan to take a threatening posture vis-a-vis the neighbours.

Ziaul Haq said to the reporters in Lahore that his country was in a position to solve the issue of Kashmir unilaterally.

Anyhow, the peace-loving countries such as the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and India who are confronted with motley-hued interventions and threats from Pakistan will not be cowed down by these conditions which are a doing of imperialists and the executors of their strategy.

The strength of these countries lies in the democratic awakening of their people. This is General Ziaul who is pitted against every individual Pakistani and is out to make adventures wherever and whenever possible. The destiny of Islamabad-type regimes depends on which direction the winds of time will blow. Perhaps one night this idea may strike the mind of another general that he is better than Ziaul or the Pakistani people would eventually decide to save Pakistan by getting rid of dictators.

It is fortunate that in spite of all the desperate efforts of Ziaul's regime the real political leaders of Pakistan did not allow themselves to be misled by the propaganda bogeys of so-called "Soviet threat" or "India threat."

They have a good impression of the DRA and are opposed to any kind of confrontation of Pakistan with its neighbours.

CSO: 4600/183

MINISTER CLAIMS FOOD SITUATION IN SIND SATISFACTORY

Karachi DAWN in English 21 Nov 83 p 8

[Text]

The Sind Food and Agriculture Minister, Sardar Ghulam Mohammed Mahar, said that food situation in the province was satisfactory and main food items were available in sufficient quantity.

In an interview the Minister said that this year 747,709 tones of wheat was procured against the target of 6.50 lakh tons and a large quantity was available with the Government to meet requirements of the province till the next crop arrives in the market.

Fair quality rationed atta was also available in sufficient quantity at the ration depots, while the supply position of atta in the open market remained satisfactory, he

added.

During 1983-84 crushing season 12 sugar mills in the province crushed 649,657 tonnes of sugarcane, producing 43,272 tonnes of sugar since Oct 10 last.

The Sind province was already surplus in sugar, he said.

Rice procurement also surpassed the target — 744,107 tonnes against the target of 6.50 lakh tonnes this year.

As for food storage godowns, in addition to 539,620 tonnes capacity already available, 50,000 tonnes capacity silos were recently completed in Khairpur, he added.—APP

CSO: 4600/165

PAKISTAN, SOMALIA SIGN AGREEMENT ON EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 22 Nov 83 p 8

[Text] ISLAMABAD, Nov. 21--Pakistan and Somalia today signed a memorandum of understanding for strengthening co-operation in the field of information.

The document was signed by Raja Mohammad Zafarul Haq, Pakistan's Minister for Information and Broadcasting, and Col. Mohammad Omar Jess, Somali Minister for Information and Guidance, on behalf of their respective governments at a simple ceremony here.

The Federal Secretary for information and Broadcasting, the Ambassador of the Democratic Republic of Somalia to Pakistan Adan Ishak Ahmed and senior officials of the Information Ministry were also present on the occasion.

The memorandum of understanding is aimed at promoting co-operation in the field of information media for strengthening the ties of friendship and brotherhood between the two countries.

The document envisages establishing co-operation between the respective Ministries of Information with a view to facilitating exchange of information on different aspect of life in the two countries.

Both sides will also encourage co-operation between the television organisations of the two countries on mutually agreed terms. The Pakistan Television Corporation will extend to the Television Organisation of Somalia training facilities in the PTV Training Academy.

Pakistan and Somalia will promote exchange of programmes and technical expertise between the broadcasting organisations of the two countries. The Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation will provide training facilities in the facilities in the fabrication of transmission equipment and programming to the radio organisation of Somalia in the Pakistan Broadcasting Academy.

The two sides will also consider a direct exchange agreement between the Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) and the Somalia National News Agency (SONNA).

In the document, Pakistan and Somalia resolved to promote the exchange of journalists on appropriate occasions through mutual consultation. Pakistan

will provide the facility of advanced training in the field of journalism to Somali journalists.

The two sides also undertook to promote co-production and exchange of documentaries, as well as exchange of informational publications on various facets of national life of the two countries.

Later Adan Ishak Ahmed, the Somalian Ambassador, expressed his pleasure over the agreement and hope it would be a milestone in enhancing the co-operation in the field of information of the two countries.

CSO: 4600/168

TREATY SOON WITH TURKEY ON DOUBLE TAXATION

Karachi DAWN in English 21 Nov 83 p 7

[Text]

A treaty on the avoidance of double taxation between Turkey and Pakistan is being negotiated to further facilitate the process of setting up of joint ventures.

According to a report published in "Near East Briefing" a quarterly Turkish magazine, two sessions have already been held and it is hoped that the treaty would be finalised and signed before the current year is out.

The report said, during the last six months or so, a number of promising developments in the field of bilateral trade and economic cooperation have taken place.

Among these measures are setting up of a branch of Habib Bank in Istanbul, establishment of a regular maritime cargo service between the ports of two countries, facilitating telecommunication, telegraph and postal service and

exchange of contacts between businessmen.

As part of these efforts the agreement setting up a joint consultancy company between Nespak and Tumas has been ratified. Detailed arrangements for setting up the office of new company in Lahore with an initial capital of one million US dollars have also been finalised.

The new company which will undertake engineering and feasibility studies for projects in both countries will also extend the scope of its cooperation to 3rd countries in the Middle East and Africa, in particular.

In addition, activities extending from an agreement on bilateral cooperation in the field of agriculture to cooperation in educational, cultural, tourism and science and technology fields, are being pursued.

CSO: 4600/165

LEADER SAYS GOVERNMENT 'HARPING ON IRRELEVANT THINGS'

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 23 Nov 83 p 6

[Text]

KARACHI, Nov. 22: The organising committee of the Pakistan Mazdoor Kissan Party, Sind, today deprecated the "government's policy of playing on the nerves of the people by constantly harping on irrelevant considerations to divert attention" from the main issue of lifting martial law and holding elections under the 1973 Constitution.

The MKP, which met here under the chairmanship of Nuruddin Sarki in a Press statement said that the proposal to hold elections on non-party basis shows the regime's disrespect for democracy, the main pillar of which is competition of organised political parties on the basis of electoral programmes. This would be a most retrogressive step in a society with a century's experience of party organisation and will fan the flames of individualism, sectarianism and regionalism. Gen. Ziaul Haq's latest pronouncement that political parties will have to hold their own elections is just another method of delaying general elections.

It said that never before in Pakistan's history has such cruel treatment been meted out to political opponents. The inhuman conditions

prevailing in the country's overcrowded prisons are indicated by recent disturbances in Sukkur, Hyderabad and Khairpur Jalla. It is obvious that the government can stay in power only by imprisoning thousands of people in jails and thanas. "We demand humane treatment and facilities for all political prisoners, including the MKP President, Fatehyab Ali Khan, who is confined in 'C' class in Sukkur Jail, and Secretary-General Sardar Shaukat Ali, who has been held in Lahore Fort for over one month.

The MKP Committee said that there was no justification for the government's plans to shift the headquarters of organisations such as PIA from Karachi. There should be a judicious distribution of federal institutions throughout the country, especially when their work links them to particular locations. The concentration of all power and institutions in Islamabad will create a sense of further deprivation in the smaller provinces. It said the general lot of the people is, in any case, getting from bad to worse due to rising prices and high cost of living, which cannot be camouflaged by the paraphernalia of artificial prosperity created by the regime.

CSO: 4600/169

ISSUE OF NON-PARTY ELECTIONS DISCUSSED

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 23 Nov 83 p 4

[Article by Sultan Ahmed: "Can Pakistan Seek a Different Political Path?"]

[Text]

The political crisis in Pakistan is largely similar to that in two other Muslim countries with which Pakistan has close relations — Turkey and Bangladesh. All the three are under Martial Law and their people want to return to a constitutional anchor with its democratic.

Turkey has tried to solve its complex problems in its own way three years after Gen. Kenan Evren seized power and began ruling the country with four other generals of his National Security Council. And Lt. Gen. Hossain Mohammad Ershad in Bangladesh is trying to take his country back to the democratic rails eighteen months after he seized power from President Abdus Sattar and his Bangladesh Nationalist Party.

The waiting in Pakistan has been much longer. Even after nearly six and a half years of military rule, we are nowhere near a clear or final arrangement to move towards a democratic order. Three months after President Zia presented his August 12 proposals for a future political set-up, the shape of things to follow is not clear. Even his meetings with seven political parties have not made things any better.

In Turkey, a year after Gen. Evren seized power, a 160-member Constituent Assembly was set up through nomination. The constitution framed by it and amended by the National Security Council was put last November through a referendum in which 91 per cent of people voted for it. The vote also meant election of Gen. Evren for seven years from No-

vember, 1982, and a ban of five to ten years on the leaders of old political parties from returning to public life.

While the generals had their way in framing the kind of constitution they wanted, the elected verdict this month turned out to be far different from what they had anticipated. Out of the three new parties allowed to contest the elections, the -Nationalist Democracy Party of General Turgut Sunalp, sponsored or favoured by the generals, got the least number of votes — 23 per cent. The conservative or rather middle-of-the road Motherland party of Turgut Ozal secured 45 per cent of the votes, while the moderate leftist Populist Party got 30 per cent votes.

Ozal won in spite of being publicly chastised by Gen. Evren for his "untruths" and "sweet promises". And now Gen. Evren has accepted the victory of Ozal's Motherland Party and will make him prime minister. Martial Law in the country is expected to end soon.

In Bangladesh, Gen. Ershad has lifted the ban on political activities, and decided to hold presidential elections on May 24 and Parliamentary elections on November 25, 1984. The political parties which have rejected his offer insist that Parliamentary elections should be held first and presidential elections later. That is the constitutional requirement too, they maintain. But Gen. Ershad who is forming his own political party like his predecessor and mentor, Gen. Ziaur Rahman, and who wants to continue as president has offered to discuss all political issues with all political parties. He has urged them to settle all their political differences with him through dialogue.

In Pakistan the deadlock continues despite the announcement of Gen. Zia that he would hold general elections by March, 1985. If he has not been able to meet the demands of the MRD, he has not been able to satisfy the seven non-MRD parties he met, particularly the Jamiatul Ulama-i-Pakistan and the JUI (Durrani group). The apparently officially blessed, efforts for a rightist alliance are not making significant headway. It is still a one step forward and two-step-backward exercise with the JUP scrupulously keeping itself out.

Of the 4,691 persons arrested in connection with the agitation in Sind, 2,570 are still in jail said Mr. Mahmud Haroon in the Majlis-i-Shoorah. The number of political leaders and workers arrested in the other three provinces is considerable, although no specific figure has been given. Unofficial estimates: the number of persons killed in Sind has been estimated at above the 61 mentioned by Mr. Haroon.

Some of the difficulties of Gen. Zia arise from the fact that he does not want to follow his Martial Law predecessors in Pakistan. Gen. Ayub Khan formed his own party, while Gen. Yahya Khan allowed all the existing parties to contest the elections. In Bangladesh Gen. Ziaur Rahman formed his own Bangladesh Nationalist Party, and Gen. Ershad is to do likewise now. And in Turkey Gen. Evren did not form his own party but sponsored or identified himself with a party formed by a retired general.

He neither wants to join a party nor form one of his own, says Gen. Zia. Instead he wants to do away with parties altogether, at least for the next general elections. He sees clear advantage in this. If he forms his own party he has to let other parties function too and compete with them. He does not want that. So he has come out in favour of non-party elections.

He has turned down suggestions for outlawing the Peoples Party forever through a reference to the Supreme Court as the PPP would not be a major factor in non-party elections if a large number of its leaders are in jail or most of them are disqualified for contesting the elections.

If he holds non-party elections in 1984, the newly elected members of the National and provincial assemblies too would want the ban on political parties to last until 1989. If he is elected president next year, his term, too, would expire in 1989. His problem now is making some major parties accept the principle of non-party elections. Hence the effort for a rightist alliance to back the government and counter the MRD.

But non-party elections cannot really be called national elections. It will be the election of individuals, of rich men of industrialists, traders and contractors in the urban areas and of zamindars in the rural areas. It will be an election in which caste, sect, tribe, Birathari and a whole lot of other parochial considerations will outweigh all others.

Candidates in such elections and the winners will not be bound by any ideology, party programmes and policies or subject to pressure from party workers after the elections. Instead they will hire their workers and campaigners, who will do their bidding. And once inside the assemblies they will try to recoup the investments they had made on the elections and make more money. That may be the first priority of most members in the national and provincial assemblies. The kind of bit money employed during the election of the mayor and deputy mayor, and earlier for election to the special seats in Karachi and elsewhere give a clear indication of the shape of things to come if the legislative elections are held on a non-party basis.

The basic question is: can we be really far different from the rest of the world, including the Muslim countries of Asia? In China the deadly war-lords gave way to the stern Communist Party. But in Pakistan we will be creating a set of political lords through non-party elections and each of them will have their own paid henchmen to get what they want to do. Can we afford such regression, such retreat from national entities to individual identification?

MUSLIM LEAGUE LEADER CONFIRMS RIFT WITH PARTY CHIEF

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 22 Nov 83 p 8

[Article by Murtaza Malik]

[Text] PESHAWAR, Nov. 21--Former Federal Minister and Secretary-General of the defunct PML (Pagara group) S.M. Zafar has explicitly confirmed his serious differences with his party chief and said that they were not of personal nature but were based on principles.

In an informal chat with newsmen here on the eve of the central committee meeting of the PML being held in Islamabad tomorrow Mr. Zafar explained the three main issues on which the differences had cropped up between the two. He also discussed the partymen's stand on the question of elections to the national and provincial assemblies on non party basis. One of the major issues, he said, was that he resisted the Pir's desire of getting a decision from the Muslim League in favour of the non-party elections. The other issue was the alliance with the defunct JUP. He wanted to maintain it, but it had gone to the rocks due to the Pir's actions. He added that he had also taken strong exception to the PML President's remarks that the 1973 Constitution was a dead letter. It was in order to set the Muslim League record straight that he promptly contradicted the Pir's statement on the subject and took the position that the Constitution was to be upheld and it was good that the PML delegation that met President Zia recently strongly supported the 1973 document.

The PML Secretary-General remarked that the Pir of Pagara did not perhaps believe in reading anything, otherwise he should have asked someone to read to him articles 58 to 62 of the party constitution wherein the authority and powers of the Secretary-General were adequately explained. Had he done that little exercise the Pir, he suggested, would not have had to challenge the functions of the Secretary-General every now and then.

About the tomorrow's meeting of the central working committee Mr. Zafar said that it would discuss the burning issue of elections to the national and provincial assemblies on non-party basis. Expressly or impliedly the Muslim League, he said, could not give consent to the non-party polls. He suggested that the Muslim Leaguers should and would resist to the last any attempt by any quarter to get a decision from the party in favour of the non-party elections. The impression of support, he observed, had been created by a

statement of the PML President that the party should take part in the elections under protest even if these were held on non-party basis and that the Muslim League was willing to endorse the decision of the government in that respect. The impression, he said, had already been removed by himself and other prominent leaders of the party in all the four provinces as by holding elections on one-party basis the transfer of power will not be possible, there would be greater chaos and confusion and local and sectarian interests will prevail as against the masses interests.

S. M. Zafar remarked that his party "boss" was probably under the impression that PML was no better than a community of Hurs and everyone else was only his 'khalifa', but that was not the case. "We are all in the party because we want to serve the country and contribute to the welfare of the people within our limitations and this position could not be denied to us in the party", he added.

CSO: 4600/168

NATION'S BATTLE TO FORMULATE CONSTITUTION ANALYZED

Karachi DAWN in English 21 Nov 83 pp 7, 10

[Article by Mushtaq Ahmad: "Constitutional Realities"]

[Text]

PAKISTAN is perhaps the solitary country where the debate on the constitution has gone on endlessly without any hope of achieving the end. The nature of the controversy and the issues involved in it belie our contention that all these 37 years have been a period of a relentless and genuine search for an ideal that has somehow eluded our grasp, and that it won't be long before the search is over for the nation to live happily in an era of political bliss.

Looking for perfection is asking for the impossible. No country ever had or will ever have a constitution that can foresee and provide for all the unforeseen problems that might arise in the course of its working. Provision for amendments is made precisely to meet situations, the most far-sighted statesmen cannot anticipate. The fundamental law of any land must therefore have either the ingredients of change or elements of flexibility to serve the needs of a changing society. The constitution is not a divinely ordained document incapable of alteration, adaptation and improvement. It is a man-made instrument embodying principles of good government and all that good government implies in terms of the moral and material well-being of the people and their right to live in freedom and peace.

These principles, men who control the apparatus of government, must observe. For any deviation, the price they pay is the vacation of the seats of power. Their mandate is never permanent but always temporary, subject to withdrawal by the mandatory power.

Political systems

While investing a lot of labour in collecting and compiling constitutional literature abounding in monotonous similarities, we have made little effort in studying the political systems of the countries they were designed for. The lesson to learn from their experience is, that even the most perfect of constitutions can produce the most imperfect government. On the other hand, the imperfections of a constitution are not necessarily insuperable impediments to the election of governments the people desire and deserve. What is important is their democratic character and the avenue for the expression of popular will.

A body of men drafting the constitution unlike the government, does not have to worry about the next election or of the next generation but of generations to come for whom it is framed. Powerful interests, may of course, seek their protection through its instrumentality. A permanent control over the instruments of power is, however, bound to invite a breakdown of the constitutional machinery.

Provincial interests in 1956 and personal stakes in 1962, were the dominant forces in their formula-

tion and also the determining factors in their collapse. From these blemishes the 1973 constitution was relatively free. Ironical was however the fact, that the very government under whose auspices its letter was framed successfully smothered its spirit. Were the reality any different, a single generation would not have lived through three constitutions and frantically groping for the fourth.

The writing and scrapping of the fundamental law of the land is a demonstrable proof of our preference of the provisional over the permanent. Ayub Khan's constitution had so many built-in defences to ensure his own permanence in office, that it would not have survived his demise even if he had remained at the helm of affairs till the last days of his life.

Lack of direction

I have had the opportunity of meeting Ayub Khan on a number of occasions, both at the peak of his power, and after the idol had fallen from his high pedestal. The first time I met him was in the President's House at Karachi in October 1960 for a 15-minute interview arranged by Jamiluddin Aali, which lasted for a whole hour, upsetting the entire schedule of appointments for the morning. The President was unsparing in his condemnation of the politicians, who, he was convinced, were responsible for the mess in which he had found the country. It was impossible to divorce politicians from politics and the constitution he was planning to introduce could not function without the rehabilitation of the political process. No compromise with them was his firm reply. They were all careerists hunting for lucrative assignments, naming a few of them. He had no intention of reviving the outlawed political parties because of his innate aversion for politics, that was the substance of their activity. Pakistan, in his view, could not afford the luxury of a party system for the next 20 years. The constitution for him was a lever for the perpetuation of personal power and not the fulcrum of a political order in which the people were its real repositories.

The Field-Marshal was a soldier by profession and not a professional politician. He had entered the arena of statecraft not to com-

pete with the politicians but to oust them from their domain and set his own rules for its occupancy. The political instability of the previous regimes generated by the scramble for place and power and the economic deterioration stemming from a lack of direction and discipline, had provided for him a convenient pretext to foist upon the country a form of government that had no parallel elsewhere. The Head of the State who was also to be the Head of the Government, was the fountainhead of authority and the legislature more or less a rubber-stamping machine, were its distinguishing features, he mistakenly thought, were also the main characteristics of the American political system he had obviously not studied.

When he was reminded of the discrepancy between his proposals and the theory and practice of the Presidential system, his instant reaction was that the Constitution Commission will then have to be apprised of the reality of American politics to prepare its blueprint in the light of our requirements of a strong executive. Concentration rather than dispersal of power through constitutional provisions, was the keynote of his own plan, while the legislative strength of the American President is extra-constitutional in origin, based on popular support to his policies.

Ayub Khan had the constitution framed in his own image. It was for all practical purposes a one-man constitution. Even the recommendations of a nominated commission were brushed aside by him. The denial of justiceable fundamental rights and the rejection of the principle of direct elections to the legislature and the executive, was a negation of democracy. The President called it controlled democracy, which was a contradiction in terms. Democracy as a government by the people, is already a misnomer since the people never directly govern themselves. Even direct election of the representatives makes it indirect and the indirect election of the representatives further widens the gulf between the government and the governed. The size of the electorate in fact had been reduced to 80,000 in a population of 80 million who could be easily manipulated and managed by the government. A government controlling the people instead of the people controlling the

government, had no constitutional propriety and democratic orientation. In intent and inspiration it was an authoritarian system which could last only so long as its author had the authority to enforce it. The moment his hold was weakened, it was time for it to collapse.

Fundamental law

In contrast, the 1973 constitution had suffered from no such weakness, eliciting as it did the widest measure of ascertainable consent. All the political parties, denominational or non-denominational, elected to the National Assembly by an overwhelming vote, had assented to its adoption as the fundamental law of the land and none of them has since revised or reversed its position. The religiously motivated parties, notwithstanding their varying interpretations of religion, stand by their initial commitment to uphold its sanctity. The flagrant abuse of the constitution by the former Prime Minister for the furtherance of personal and party ends, subversion of the principles of government by consent embodied in its text, is no argument for its wholesale revision or outright rejection. The President himself had time and again reassured the nation that he had not abrogated the document but only held it in abeyance. How far is

his August 12 statement aimed at restoration or abrogation, need not be made the subject matter of a time-consuming public debate, it must certainly form the substance of the dialogue between General Zia-ul-Haq and the original signatories, whose opinions he is engaged in ascertaining before giving a greenlight to the Election Commission.

Elections may confer a mantle of legitimacy on the future government, but without a consensus on the fundamental law of the land, they will not carry the promise of continuity of constitutional government, the nation has been pining for ever since its emergence into statehood. Peripheral differences on procedures could be overlooked, fundamental disagreements on principles ought to be permanently settled. Leaving them unsettled, would reopen the floodgates of controversy that might well prove ruinous for the country and cast serious doubts on our capacity to govern ourselves. The nation cannot afford to change its constitution each time it changes its government. Governments may come and go but the constitution must go on for ever.

On President Zia, therefore, rests a heavy responsibility of restoring the supremacy of civil power under a fundamental law whose fundamentality will not again be called in question.

CSO: 4600/165

STUDENT ASSOCIATION CRITICIZES GOVERNMENT, POLITICIANS, LANDLORDS

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 22 Nov 83 p 6

[Text] QUETTA, Nov. 21--Abdul Samad Achakzai, President-elect of the Pash-toon Students Federation, asked the government to immediately hold general elections in the country and hand over power to the elected representatives of the people.

Addressing the well attended 4th national PSF convention in the Bolan Medical College hall, which concluded on Saturday, he expressed his indignation over the curbs and restrictions being extended by the authorities and suggested that the only solution to the present crisis lay in the restoration of national democratic rights.

He disclosed that the PSF central committee, after discussing the present crisis, had come to the conclusion that if the present uncertainty was allowed to continue, the identity and solidarity of the nationalities and the country would be endangered.

Outgoing President Azaiullah Khan, who was in Kabul during the previous regime, vehemently criticised the present government, which he termed a usurper. He said it was playing with the sentiments of the masses.

He also condemned the role of the political parties, which he said had failed miserably to safeguard the interests and rights of the various nationalities living within the confederation of Pakistan.

Criticising political leaders, tribal chiefs of Baluchistan and waderas of Sarhad, he said the time for old leaders was past, and the younger generation was determined to play its historic role.

He appreciated the Afghan revolution and asked his colleagues to unite in their efforts to overthrow the self-serving waderas and sardars.

Reza Mohammad Reza, Secretary General of the Pakistan Progressive Students Alliance and President of the Pakhtoon Students Organisation, said people should settle their differences and unite to demand elections under the 1973 Constitution.

He believed the violence in Sind was a manifestation of the denial of democratic rights in that province. He said if the sense of deprivation prevalent in the other provinces was not remedied, a popular uprising could be expected anytime.

He demanded the release of all political detenus and asked the government to desist from taking undemocratic measures.

Badar Khan Baluch, President of the Baluchistan Students, Organisation, said his organisation believed in the continuation of the democratic struggle until the realisation of its goal. He denied charges that BSO was involved in fanning sectarian tendencies and sabotage.

Expressing his concern over the maltreatment of political detenus, he said the harassment of political workers and their families for the 'crime' of having political convictions and faith must stop.

The convention was also addressed by Janas Khattak, Ikramullah Khalid, Aurangzeb Khan, Dost Khan, Arif Kakar, Hasan Bangash, Azizullah and Naeem Gul.

Besides the President, other office-bearers were elected, including Abdul Wadood Wadan (Sind) as Senior Vice President and Vice Presidents Mufarrah Shah (NWFP), Ghulam Siddique Gran (Baluchistan) and Shamsher Yousafzai (Punjab).

Resolutions passed in the final session demanded the restoration of democracy, release of all political detenus, reopening of NWFP colleges, withdrawal of police and frontier constabulary from the Peshawar University campus, and permission to hold students union elections in Peshawar University in the coming session.

CSO: 4600/168

POLICY BODY ON CONSULTANCY FIRMS SET UP

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 22 Nov 83 p 1

[Text] KARACHI, Nov. 21--A high-powered committee has been set up by the federal government to evolve a national policy on the development of the profession of consultancy firms, official sources said here today.

A decision to this effect was taken at a meeting held in Islamabad of the officials and consultancy firms in the public and private sectors in Islamabad last week. Dr. Mahbubul Haq, Federal Minister for Planning and Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission presided.

Informed sources said the national policy should also regulate the operations of foreign consultancy firms so as to encourage transfer of technology and protect the local consultants from unfair competition.

Local associations of consultants have been pressing the government for the past five years or so that foreign firms may be encouraged to work in co-operation with local counterparts rather at the cost of national agencies.

It may be added here that international lending agencies and donors insist on employment of foreign consultants though institutions like IRBD have laid down in writing that the "aid" recipients would have to option to hire consultants of their choice.

It is also strongly felt that Pakistan has not resisted the pressures of donors whereas countries like India, Malaysia and Colombia have developed consultancy and the role of foreigners has been reduced to the bare minimum and it is just marginal.

The committee would also identify deficiencies of the domestic consultants, if any, and suggest measures to remove them so that they can take on the primary responsibility of helping execute the massive development programme envisaged under the Sixth-Five-Year Plan.

Headed by Sheikh Manzoor, member, Technical Planning Commission, the committee includes Syed Saeed Jaffri, President, National Association of Consultants of Pakistan, Shahmawaz Khan, Chairman, Pakistan Engineering Council, Mr. Reza Syed, Managing Director, IACP, S. M. Yusuf, a former Chairman of Pakistan

Steels, I.A. Zafar, member Pakistan Engineering Council and Mr. Swati, an official of the Planning Commission.

The first meeting of the committee is due to meet in Karachi on Nov. 26.

Although reliable data on the number of consultancy firms and individuals in the field of Management, Finance, Physical Planning and Engineering is not available but their total strength could be anywhere between 300 to 400.

The Pakistan Engineering Council has a membership of some 200 firms and the national association of consultants has some 80 members. There are many individuals and firms not affiliated to either of the two organizations.

CSO: 4600/168

COMMITTEE TO PROPOSE STEPS FOR ERADICATING BEGGARY

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 23 Nov 83 p 3

[Text] ISLAMABAD, Nov. 22--The magnitude and complexity of the menace of beggary, particularly the one posed by professional and habitual beggars is being examined at a high-level meeting to get rid of it.

According to official sources, a special committee set up on a presidential directive by the Health and Social Welfare Division is engaged in this task.

Some concrete and substantial steps are expected to be taken on the recommendations of the committee which would complete its work soon.

It was hoped that after the enforcement of Zakat and Ushr Ordinance, the menace of beggary would be eradicated to a great extent. But, according to the sources, the desired results could not be achieved so far.

It was not because of the inadequacy of the Zakat Fund, but was because of the magnitude and the complexity of the problem.

In the disbursement of Zakat, the beggars, as a category of the Mustahequeen, were given top priority sufficient fund was provided to the Central Zakat Foundation by the Central Zakat Administration for their rehabilitation.

In addition to it Zakat was distributed through the Local Zakat Committees all over the country to assist and rehabilitate the deserving beggars. However, no visible impact has been observed in beggary.

According to the sources, the Central Zakat Administration had directed the Provincial Zakat Administrations to utilize Zakat funds for the rehabilitation of the beggars.

It has been expected that the measures being taken at the provincial and federal levels would yield some positive results in the near future.

Prof. Dr. Bashrat Jazbi, President's Advisor on Health Social Welfare and Special Education who head the special committee on eradication of beggary, when contacted, said that the government would take every possible step to cope with the problem.

He said he had constituted four provincial sub-committees to examine the issue and make recommendations. The provincial sub-committee, Punjab has submitted its report while the reports from other provinces are awaited.

The special committee on receipt of these reports would take some important decisions to overcome the menace of beggary.

CSO: 4600/169

PAGARA LEAGUE FAILS TO REACH DECISION ON NON-PARTY ELECTIONS

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 23 Nov 83 p 8

[Article by Ashraf Hashmi]

[Text] ISLAMABAD, Nov. 22--The Central Working Committee of the Pakistan Muslim League (Pagara group), which held a day-long meeting here today, has failed to reach a policy decision regarding the basis of the next general election in the country.

A strong group led by the party's Secretary-General, S. M. Zafar, remained adamant on its stand that the party would take part in the elections only if these were held on party basis. The group forcefully resisted the line taken by the party's President Pir Pagara, that it would take part in the elections even if these were held on non-party basis.

The two groups refused to yield to each others' point of view. A number of speakers had heated exchanges and even accused one another of betraying the party's cause. Threats coming from the President that he will have no option but to expel the dissidents from the party were also strongly resisted by the members and they made it clear that no single office-bearer including the President had the expulsion right and a decision on this account could only be taken by the party's General Council. Some of the members also attacked the policies of their President and complained against his "non-serious" approach to the national issues, which they said has lowered the party's prestige in the eyes of the people.

The Pressmen who reached Pir Pagara's residence to cover the meeting were not allowed to enter the premises. They were told that the President of the party had nothing to tell them. However, at lunch time when Pir Sahib came out and invited the Pressmen to have lunch with him all of them declined his invitation and said that they had come to collect news and not to attend Pir Sahib's birthday.

The meeting of the working committee continued late tonight. The party's Secretary-General, Mr. Zafar, when contacted on telephone said that he had to say nothing today as the meeting had not yet arrived at any conclusion. He, however, may issue a statement some time tomorrow.

CSO: 4600/169

AID CONSORTIUM TO BE BRIEFED ON PAKISTAN'S NEEDS

Karachi DAWN in English 21 Nov 83 p 1

[Text]

ISLAMABAD, Nov 20: Pakistan is expected to present at an extraordinary meeting in Paris on Dec 7 and 8 a special development programme comprising specific projects estimated to cost about 20 billion dollars during the Sixth Plan period, for consideration by the consortium for long-range assistance.

The special development programme is designed to cover some high-cost development projects, development projects for backward regions like Baluchistan and tribal areas and Cholistan and some high-priority projects for Karachi's growing demands.

Dr Mahbubul Haq, Federal Minister for Planning and Development, is expected to lead the Pakistan delegation to the special consortium meeting, carrying with him the portfolio of special programme and projects identifying their objectives and priorities.

It is, however, clarified that the Paris meeting is not supposed to make commitments: it will be briefed by the Pakistan Planning Minister for eventual commitments in April next year when the consortium will meet for annual commitment and pledges.

In preparation for the special consortium meeting in Paris in early second week of December, Dr Haq will first visit Washington and

meet heads of the World Bank, IMF, and US Aid.

It is stated that Pakistan would like the World Bank consortium to assure Islamabad of assistance on long-term basis so as to guarantee the financing of the long-range projects under the Sixth Plan. Although the Pakistan portfolio of special aid programme is estimated to cost 20 billion dollars over the five-year period, the amount of credits expected from the consortium will be of the order of 10 billion dollars which, however, will be reduced to net amount of 4.5 billion dollars, taking out the repayments and interest due on the total amount.

Among the projects included for presentation at the special Paris meeting next month include: the Kalabagh Dam estimated to cost 3.7 billion dollars; Lower bank outflow drainage in Sind worth about two billion dollars; Baluchistan's special programme of about 21 billion rupees; and Karachi's special programme estimated to cost Rs 35,000 million.

It is understood that the portfolio of special projects for the consortium aid will not include the Chashma nuclear power plant because as a policy the World Bank and its subsidiaries do not provide credits for nuclear projects regardless of their nature.

BRIEFS

EXPORT OF COTTON BANNED--LAHORE, Nov 20: The Government has stopped the export of cotton till the demand of the local textile industry is fully met, Federal Industries Minister Elahi Bakhsh Soomro said here today. Talking to newsmen here, he said the measure had been taken in view of the damage to the cotton crop in the Punjab and Sind, because of natural factors. He said the textile circles had been greatly disturbed because of the damage to the crop which had reduced the yield. Mr Soomro said that no time limit had been fixed for the ban on cotton export and added that the ban would be lifted only when the Government was satisfied that the export would not affect the local industry.--
APP [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 21 Nov 83 p 1]

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